

UNAUTHORIZED COPPER
COINS CIRCULATING IN AMERICA

The English colonial empire in America had no copper coin of its own provided by England and had to rely on such English or foreign copper coin as trade would bring in. Under George I, William Wood ^{paid £10,000 for} ~~was~~ ^{obtained a franchise to} authorized by the Crown to coin copper for Ireland and for America and from 1722 to 1724 minted ^{separate} ~~short weight copper~~ coins for each. The Irish issue of halfpence

and farthings, known as "Wood's coinage", was rejected there ^{on account of their short} ~~weight and an~~ ^{attempt was made to circulate them in}

^{the colonies} ~~the colonies~~. The American issue, known as ^{the Rosa Americana} ~~Rosa Americana~~, were ^{circulated to a great degree in New England} ~~similarly refused in America~~

^{readily fed into circulation} ~~ought to be accepted as equivalent to pence,~~

in English exchange. Some of the American colonies had already begun their series of revaluations of their

own currency at lower rates than ^{English} ~~English~~ currency and copper

coin, therefore, circulated at such values as economic principles determined and not for the denomination for which ^{it was originally} ~~they were~~ intended.

Thus such of the Wood's coinage and Rosa Americana ^{coinage} ~~series~~ as went into American circulation found their own level in trade transactions.

The colonies were always in need of small change and in 1739 John Read unsuccessfully proposed to the Connecticut

Assembly a plan to use the copper mined in Connecticut for coining halfpence and farthings ^{both for the purpose of} ~~and thus~~ stabilize the paper currency ~~and for the purpose of~~ ^{as well as} satisfy the public's needs.

The copper coins ~~circulating in~~ ^{of} England and Ireland, ~~nevertheless~~, found their way to America and became the bulk of the coppers ^{circulating} in the colonies. Genuine ^{English} coppers of George I were ~~subsequently~~ joined by both ^{English and Irish} genuine and counterfeit coppers of George II ~~for~~ ~~England and Ireland~~. However, when genuine English copper coins of George III were issued during the 1770-1775 period and the English law was strengthened as to actual counterfeiting, there was a ^{natural} ~~material~~ tendency for the counterfeit coppers to be shipped to America where the English counterfeiting laws were not applicable. Counterfeit coppers could be sold in trade by English coiners to American merchants at a substantial discount but with profit to both. This practice was interrupted by the American Revolution when trade between America and the mother country was suspended but continued revived at an enormously increased rate promptly after the close of the military operations ⁱⁿ 1783.

The Report of the Grand Committee presented to the Continental Congress on May 13, 1785 described conditions in the following manner:

"* * * From the small value of the Several Pieces of copper coin, this medium of Exchange has been too much neglected. The more valuable metals are

daily giving Place to base British half Pence and no means are used to prevent the Fraud. This Disease which is neglected in the Beginning, because it appears trifling may finally prove very destructive to commerce. It is admitted that Copper may at this Instant be purchased in America at $1/8$ of a Dlr the Pound. British half Pence made at the Tower are 48 to the Pound. Those manufactured at Birmingham and ship'd in Thousands for our Use, are much lighter, and they are of base Metal. It can hardly be said that 72 of them are worth a Pound of Copper. Hence it will follow, that we give for British half Pence about six times their Value. There are no Materials from which we can estimate the Weight of half Pence that have been imported from Britain since the late War. But we have heard of Sundry Shipments being ordered, to the nominal amount of 1000 Guineas, and we are told, that no Packet arrives from England by which we are not accommodated with some hundred Weight of base Half Pence. It is a very moderate computation which States our Loss on the last 12 months, ^{at} 30 Thousand Dollars by the Commerce of vile Coin. The whole Expence of a Mint would not have amounted to half of that Sum, and the whole Expence of domestic coinage would remain in the Country."

The American public accepted counterfeit copper without concern because they were ^{generally} unaware of what was counterfeit and because the need for small change was paramount.

The spurious coppers coined in England to avoid the English law of 1770 do not appear to have been sent to America. It should be noted that the legends and mottos on the spurious coppers relate to England and to Europe and only two to America. One with the legends "AUCTORI*PLEBIS*" (By the authority of the people) and "INDEP:ET.LIBER" (Independence and Liberty) 1787 was copied from similar language on a Connecticut cent was for English circulation as was the combination of GEORGE ^{EWS} WASHINGTON with NORTH WALES which was subsequently issued. Spurious coppers were probably not to America because it was much more likely for the American public to accept counterfeit copper than to accept spurious coins. Americans on seeing spurious coppers were likely to assume that they were being taken advantage of. Counterfeit copper coins were, as will be subsequently shown, not controlled by American laws and thus putting them into circulation would be less risky than the same practice in England.

Writers of books and articles have heretofore assumed that spurious coppers circulated freely in America, but I have been unable to confirm that condition with any evidence whatsoever. On March 5, 1787 in the report of the Committee instructed by the N. Y. General Assembly to make recommendations about the circulation of copper it was stated:

'They find that there are various sorts of copper coin circulating in this State, the principal whereof are, ---

'First. A few genuine British halfpence of George II., and some of an earlier date, the impressions of which are generally defaced.

'Secondly. A number of Irish half-pence, with a bust on one side, and a harp on the other.

'Thirdly. A very great number of pieces, in imitation of British half-pence, but much lighter, of inferior copper, and badly executed. * These are generally called by the name of Birmingham Coppers, as it is pretty well known that they are made there, and imported in casks, under the name of Hard Ware, or wrought Copper.

'Fourthly. There has lately been introduced into circulation, a very considerable number of coppers of the kind that are made in the State of New Jersey. Many of these are below the proper weight of the Jersey Coppers, and seem as if designed as a catch-penny for this market.'

This report specifically mentions quantities of coppers in imitation of British halfpence but does not mention any spurious coppers which ^{clearly} ~~obviously~~ ^{imitations} are not. The Fairfield County, Connecticut, hoard which contained over 200 copper coins and which was buried about 1789 did not contain one spurious piece but did contain, however, many varieties of counterfeit ^{English and Irish} halfpence of both George II and George III.

In 1754 the Governor of North Carolina proposed
North Carolina coinage in denominations of
that copper, two pence, 2d halfpence, 1d halfpence, 1d
money, he approved, the coins to be of the weight of one pound
6d copper halfpence to weigh ^{one pound} ~~one pound~~ ^{one pound}
indicating that English pence should continue in a value of 2/3 of the N.C. pence

and

~~Copper coins were to be minted in the colonies~~ Attempts were made in several of the colonies to have copper coins. Virginia by an Act of Council on November 20, 1645 authorized a special issue of copper coins of 2, 3, 6 and 9 pence, but none were made. ^{On March 3, 1793} Massachusetts turned down a request to approve Province Pence of copper.

Virginia halfpence

A petition of John Lead to the ~~General Court of Connecticut~~ ^{dated} October 10, 1739 requests permission to use copper mined in Connecticut to make English halfpence and farthings and to have this copper coinage the standard ~~of the~~ ^{all} ~~for~~ ^{paper} Connecticut currency.

At this same time, John Higley was ^{however} ~~mining~~ ^{mining} coming very pure copper mined in Simsbury, Conn without any authorization. ~~and~~ ^{Higley's} Although his 1737 issues had a denomination of three pence

the size ^{and weight} of Higley's pieces were ~~about~~ ^{about} the same as George II halfpence. Although his 1737 issue ^{specified} ~~started~~ ^{the} denomination of three pence ~~Connecticut~~ ^{had a small III but} pence the later issues of 1737 and 1739 bore the following legends: indicating that the ~~coins~~ ^{paper} coppers would circulate at whatever the ~~public determined~~ ^{public} ~~for~~ ^{unstable} Connecticut currency and the public might determine: VALUE ME AS YOU PLEASE

PLEASE

I AM GOOD COPPER

I CUT MY WAY THROUGH

In New Hampshire on Mar 13, 1776 the ~~first~~ ^{first} coppers the size of English halfpence but intended to circulate for 2/3 NH pence were authorized and ~~that~~ ^a small quantity of such coin was issued bearing the legend AMERICAN LIBERTY

The insignia, mottoes or legends specifically referring to the State of New York are found on the following dies on copper coins:

NOVA EBORAC (3 die varieties)

Seated woman holding shield bearing ^{the} rising sun insignia from ^{the} arms of New York (4 ^{die} varieties)

Arms of New York including eagle above motto with EXCELSIOR below (2 varieties)
die

Arms of New York without eagle above and with EXCELSIOR ~~die~~ below (1 die variety)

NEO EBORACENSIS (2 die varieties)

NEO EBORACUS (1 die variety)

GEORGE CLINTON surrounding his bust (1 die variety)

All of the foregoing are rare. The problem is, therefore, to determine whether the foregoing dies were made in America and, if so, which were associated in characteristics with those coins struck at Machin's Mills. It is in Connecticut records where a comment as to coins struck in New York is made.

The State of Connecticut was entitled to 5% of the copper coins minted by the Connecticut franchise holders and therefore an official investigating committee was appointed to check up on those operations. The committee's report, dated April 9, 1789, states, "We further find from the Information of Major Eli Leavenworth that he has made blank Coppers the
(1788)
Last Fall had them stamped in New York with Various Impressions -

There are no other coppers known in other than pattern quantity which might fulfil the description in the report except authorized Vermont coinage and counterfeit halfpence, neither of which would have been described so vaguely.

Relying on the word "similar" it must be assumed
an ~~un~~ authorized issue such as the 1787
that the reference is to ~~the~~ Nova Eborac coppers which like
the Connecticut cents have a mailed bust and laureated head
on the obverse and a seated figure of Liberty with pole, cap,

shield and branch on the reverse. ^{In addition} the position of the date
on the Connecticut cents and the Nova Scotia coppers
are the same and the coins are the same size.

Admittedly, the Vermont coppers were also similar but there ~~was no point in a Connecticut franchise holder having~~

~~Verment coppers made.~~ In addition ^{the report ~~states~~ ^{infers}} there were some coppers ~~made at Leavenworth's direction~~ ^{which were not} ~~which were not similar to~~ ^{similar to}

made at Leavenworth's direction which were not similar to
Examining the known coppers which had no authorization
Connecticut Coins, and so from known coins the conclusion th ~~was~~
~~might be reached that the Nova Eborac Coppers with figure 7, seated to the~~
~~right were similar and with the figure 7 seated to the left were dissimilar~~
~~must be reached that only coppers bearing references to New~~
~~York or the Nova Eborac were correct typology.~~
~~Correct~~ fill both the similar and dissimilar categories.

The reference to New York does not specify ^{the place in} ~~New York~~ ^{but Surge known copper} ~~city~~ ^{and the only} ~~where the only copper coining facilities were those of~~ ^{machining facilities in} ~~New York State~~ ^{but no mint was available in New York S} James Jarvis for the manufacture of Fugio coppers under contract ^{were those at} ~~with the~~ ^{Machin's Mills} ~~and~~ ^{it} with the Continental Congress

~~but since James Jarvis was unable to meet his production quotas~~

It appears that a reference to Machin's Mills was intended.

MACHIN'S MILLS

Copper Coinage
of the
Secret ~~Mint~~ New York Mint
~~Newburgh~~

THE SECRET
~~MINT~~
NEW YORK MINT
~~MACHIN'S MILLS~~
~~NEW YORK~~

The Secret
American
Mint

A study of ^{coinage} Copper Coins ~~at~~
minted at ^{Machin's Mills near} Newburgh, New York ^{from 1785 to 1788}
~~beginning in 1785~~
embracing:

- Patterns for Federal coinage
- Patterns for New York coinage and
- Imitation British halfpence
- ~~all~~ as related to ^{official} Vermont,
- Connecticut and New Jersey ^{state} coinages.
- Counterfeit ^{Connecticut} ~~state~~ Coinages
- Vermont coinage.

Copper Coinage
of ~~the~~ the
Secret
Mint in New York
~~New York Mint~~
~~from 1785 to 1789~~
prior to 1789.

Unauthorized copper
minted in United States
before the Ratification of the
Constitution

Operation of
the Secret

Unauthorized Copper Coin
minted in ~~the~~ United States
prior to 1789
between 1783 and 1789

Introduction

THE SECRET OF MACHIN'S MILL

The history of eighteenth century coinage at Machin's Mills, ^{near} Newburgh, New York has all the intrigue of a modern mystery thriller. Why did the men ^{working there} ~~at the mill~~ wear masks to frighten away small boys? What were the unearthly noises which panicked the villagers night after night? Why were the neighbors suspicious and fearful? Had the devil installed his workshop at the mill?

Every effort was made to conceal the activities at Machin's Mills. Was what they did illegal? ^{Why did Was anyone being defrauded?} Strangely enough no ~~applicable~~ law was violated. What were these men trying to accomplish in such a mysterious manner?

^{The Machin Mill ~~Copper~~ mint operating from 1785 through 1788 became} Thomas Machin, an English born engineer, who had assisted the American cause during the Revolution by supervising the construction of chains and other obstructions across the Hudson River, ^{and had in 1784 built} began the construction of a mill ~~in 1784~~ near the outlet of Orange Lake (formerly known as Stony Pond and originally Ossunk), in the northwestern part of the town of Newburgh in Ulster County, (now Orange County), New York and called it New Grange. The mill ^{originally} was equipped to grind grain, saw wood, and operate other mechanical devices.

~~It became the most baffling~~ ^{the most baffling} ~~the principal~~

THE PARTNERSHIP CONTRACTS

~~A source~~ ^{A source} of unauthorized coinage in the ~~the~~ history of United States and the issuer of some of the ~~the~~ rarest early American copper

One of the ~~most~~ great inconsistencies in American numismatics is the existence of coins dated from 1785 through 1788 with an American motto ~~on one side and~~ on one side and a British motto ~~on the other~~ on the other. These national mottoes are ^{never} ~~as follows~~ as follows:

<u>Obverse</u>	<u>Reverse</u>
VERMONT AUCTORI (By the authority of Vermont)	BRITANNIA ^(Great Britain) 1787
AUCTORI CONNEX (By the authority of Connecticut)	BRITANNIA ^(Great Britain) 1786
GEORGIUS III REX (George III King) GEORGIUS III REX	INDE ET LIB (Independence and liberty) 1788 * INDE ET LIB (Independence and liberty) 1788
GEORGIUS III REX (George III King)	IMMUNE COLOMBIA (Free America) 1785
GEORGIUS III REX (George III King)	LIBER NATUS LIBERTATE DEFENDO (Born free I defend liberty) 1787

It is also well known that ⁱⁿ most Vermont coppers ~~the~~ ^{the American} motto INDE ^{ET} LIB (Independence and liberty) surrounds a ~~seated~~ ^{seated} figure holding a shield ^{containing} ~~the~~ ^{the} British ~~union~~ ^{union}, ~~the cross of St Andrew and St George.~~

Were ^{all of} these coins deliberately made for circulation or were they mistakes? Were they Tory propaganda or ~~for~~ ^{made} made for circulation in both United States and Canada? Were they made to avoid counterfeiting laws or are they freaks made for collectors? A study of the characteristics of ~~the~~ ^{the} coins with these inconsistencies and then along with the interlocking dies and punches furnishes us with a more complete understanding of what went on at a craftsman's skills and opens up a new approach to many phases of early American coinage.

Ant. 9.
Introduction

~~Explanation~~ of Coins
~~Classification~~
~~Designation~~

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Wherever references are made to die varieties of copper coins heretofore described by generally accepted authorities I ~~have retained~~ ^{have been retained} that designation. Some classifiers have more properly given each die a separate designation while others have chosen to give each combination of dies a designation. ^{Sylvester S.} Crosby's "Early Coins of America" ⁽¹⁸⁷⁵⁾ uses a combination classification in the plates (such as Plate VII Combination 14), ~~and~~ but ~~often in the text (such as No. 58 on page 318); yet he uses an obverse and~~ ^{reverse} die classification as to certain ^{other} series (such as Nova Constellatio, 1785, 2-A). ^{"The Colonial Coins of Vermont" (1920)} ~~"Vermont Cents"~~ by Hillyer Ryder as improved ^{John M.} by Richardson only contains combination classifications ~~(for~~ ^{example Number 21)} while ^{"A Historic Sketch of the} ~~"Coins of New Jersey"~~ ^{(1831) Edward} by Maris and ^{"The State} ~~"Coins of Connecticut"~~ ^{(1920) Henry C.} by Miller have separate die classifications for ^{each} obverse and reverse. Miller's and some of Crosby's die classifications also require the date to be mentioned as a reference to Miller 9-E may be either 1787 or 1788. ^{In Miller the same die may have different designations} The ^{in the text and on the plates} abbreviations used are as follows:

Wherever helpful all designations are used.

- Gr. VII-14 (Crosby Plate VII ^{Combination} ~~coin number~~ 14)
- Gr. ~~P.~~ 118 (Crosby page 118)
- Gr. 1785, 2-A (Crosby obverse 2, ~~Reverse A~~, dated 1785)
- Mi. ¹⁷⁸⁶ ~~1785~~, 2 (1)-A (Miller obverse 2 (1), ~~Reverse A~~, dated 1785⁶)
- Ry. 21 (Ryder-Richardson ^{combination} ~~number~~ 21)
- Ma. ^{6-C} ~~6-A~~ (Maris obverse 6, Reverse C)
- ~~Be. 1 (Beets No. 1)~~

Since some of the ^{coins} ~~dies~~ are illustrated for the first time

depending upon the date on the reverse

in the plates of this study ~~I have given a designation to each~~
~~die with a numbering system~~ *has been designated under a classification* which cannot be confused with any

others. The designation of any die is the ^{number of the} vertical column
~~number~~ ^{letter of the horizontal row} with the ~~horizontal number~~ added to the end. Thus the

top ~~third~~ ^{the third} die in vertical column ~~116~~ ^{103A} is ~~1163~~ and its combination
second from the top in the third vertical column is ~~1163~~
with the ~~fourth die in column 117~~ ^{is written as 1163-1174;}
described as 103A - 103B. The first ~~integer~~ numeral in
a columnar number is the plate number.

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Punch identities
Identification

(2)

In addition to the data obtainable from study of the various die combinations with which any particular die may be used, the common origin of many eighteenth century dies can be determined through the letter, number, ornament or hub punches used in sinking the dies. Separate letter punches were used in spelling out the legends. ~~Several~~ ^{Separate} numeral punches were used for the date. If a large number of dies were contemplated for coins ~~of~~ ^{of} a particular design, the preparation of a hub punch would save considerable labor ~~and expense~~ because the hub could be used to sink a series of dies. For other than ~~a highly experienced~~ ^{an expert} die cutter, the preparation of a hub punch ~~is~~ ^{was} also easier because the hub has the same appearance as is intended for the design of the coin proposed to be struck. In preparing a hub ~~there~~ ^{punch} there is no need to cut high portions low and low portions high ~~and reverse lettering~~ ^{on reverse} ~~from left~~ ^{and} right as is necessary where the ~~die itself~~ ^{design is} ~~is~~ ^{handcut} directly into the ~~sunk directly~~. In spite of the fact that ~~the~~ ^{the} hub punch ~~is~~ ^{it} would be used when the ~~die~~ ^{steel for the} had been softened by heat, ~~these~~ ^{the} punches would often leave ~~weak~~ ^{weak} or uneven impression and the die-maker was, therefore, forced to finish the die by a substantial amount of hand cutting. Because of this additional ~~hand cutting~~ ^{Corresponding} two dies made with identical hub punches may be quite different in appearance, size and design details, because of extensive hand cutting, in ~~their~~ ^{the} final preparation ~~before use~~ ^{of the dies}.

Letter and number punches, being small, can be so similar that conclusive identification of the same punch is ^{always} not possible on poorly struck coins or on coins struck from roughly made or recut dies. Several of the ornament punches used in making dies for the Connecticut and Fugio cents still exist.

Hand cutting of the complete die, ^{or} ~~and sometimes~~ ^{not uncommon in America in the latter} portions of the die, was also used (Crosby page 311). In each die-maker developed a style and technique and thus in some cases the free hand cutting of a design in a die can be identified as being done by the same artist ^{who made} as another die.

Hand cutting was used in the Mint as late as 1795, but probably from 1793 on there was partial hub in use for some denominations. Letter & figure punches were used from 1792 on.

hand and punch methods were used, some-care, other times hastily and crudely, of the ce and background of the coins themselves of the work prepared the dies.

In examining the coins on which this study is based, I have ~~looked~~ ^{have been sought} for peculiarities and abnormalities in letters, numerals and hub designs, so that coins made from dies sunk with identical hubs or punches can be proven to be of common origin.

~~There have been selected~~ ^{only such} ~~as appear to be of common origin~~ ^{identifying portions} ~~as appear to be of common origin~~ ^{related them to the same source.}

Overstrikes

Another type of evidence to prove the source ~~or~~ use of a die is the existence of overstrikes. ~~Overstrikes of copper coins~~ ~~do exist some about whether where planchets~~ ~~appearing equipment for melting copper~~ ~~striking~~ preparing new planchets ~~from available~~ copper was not available to a coiner or where the cost of ^{purchasing or} preparing planchets was in excess of what bulk quantities of copper token coinage could be purchased for the use of ~~available~~ coins as planchets ~~and~~ did not materially spoil the recoined product. In the ~~the~~ period from 1785 to 1788 many coins of Vermont Connecticut and New Jersey as well coins bearing New York and Federal insignia were struck over

1797 1/2 cent. m is
reported and found
on a Massachusetts
1/2 and as late as
1892 The first used
spiral cut dies and
rolled out onto the half
and

and over one another. As late as
the United States mint was striking
in tokens of Talbot Allison & Co. ~~the~~
copper coinage ^{to the} United States
disputed the eighteenth century,
I was concerned ^{and the}
the United States was ~~in~~ virtually

non-existent. Certain conclusions can be
drawn from the overstrikes. If a coin of known
American origin is struck over a coin of known
British ^{then an alloy in American} origin that would be natural, but if a
coin of ^{British} origin were struck over a coin of
American origin that would be most improbable.

~~Coin struck in Great Britain~~

Planchets were readily available in Great Britain at
reasonable prices ~~and~~

Thus we ~~reach the~~ ^{reach the} conclusion that if a coin of
doubtful origin were struck over a coin of known
origin we could properly assume that the
doubtful origin was American.

myself to become for my wife's tolerance in ^{allowing me to write these} ~~allowing me to write these~~ a "coin widow" ~~for too many nights of the~~ I am apologetic.

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Acknowledgments

Preparation of this material would not have been possible without the cooperation of many of ~~these~~ others. I have been afforded the opportunity to examine specimens from many ~~of the~~ ^{major} ~~of the~~ ^{and} ~~of the~~ ^{collections} and ~~of the~~ ^{and} particularly grateful to F. C. C. Boyd, Yale University, ~~the~~ American Numismatic Society, ^{Norman Engart} and Damos Douglas for being able to examine portions of their collections. I have been materially helped ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ gathering facts by ^{Norman Engart, Damos Douglas, and} John Ford, Walter Rees, Johns Hopkins University, ^{and} New York Public Library, ^{and} Library of Congress. The photographic assistance of the American Numismatic Society and ~~of~~ Albert J. Kuegler of St Louis has been invaluable. Lastly I ~~must~~ thank the regret that I do not have the opportunity to thank Baudette G. Johnson whose ^{knowledge} ~~friendship~~ and guidance inspired me to ~~first~~ ^{begin} to collect coins ^{seriously} ~~and~~ ^{then} to ~~appear~~ ^{study} their intriguing ~~and~~ ^{and} mysteries and to reject the many ~~of the~~ ^{of} ~~numismatic~~ ^{history} ~~not~~ based upon fact.

To prove that the Machin's Mill Mint struck Connecticut cents ^{probably} with the consent of those having the Connecticut franchise, we can examine the history of the 1788 INDE

ET LIB die, known as Miller Reverse D. This die ~~was found~~ ^{was used} on ~~three coins~~ ^{three coins};

~~namely a muling known as the Connecticut cent, 1788 2-D and 1788 16 (1)-D and combined with~~
~~an obverse of an~~ ^{combined with 1788 Obverse D and combined with 1788 Conn}
~~imitation British halfpence, obverse.~~ ^{dropped foot} A substantial group of ¹⁶⁽¹⁾

die breaks on this reverse D makes the order of the striking of ~~these~~ various combinations clear. The die breaks, in the order of their appearance are:

(a) A line from the edge along the right side of the post of **PI** in LIB.

(b) A line from the edge diagonally across B to the lower right side of the shield.

(c) A break from the edge of the top of the right side of **PE** in ET.

(d) A line from the shin of the left foot down ^{double} through the base line **●** in front of the left foot.

(e) Break (d) expands to cover the lower part of the left leg and an area below the ^{double} base line **●**.

(f) Break (c) expands into a wedge shaped break diagonally across the letter **E** in ET.

The die in unbroken condition is first found combined with the imitation ^{British} halfpence obverse, then it is

found only with the 1788 Connecticut Miller 2 obverse when die break (a), (b) and (c), successively appear. Both before and after die break (d) appears the die is again in combination with the imitation halfpence obverse. Then the die, showing breaks (a), (b), (c) and (d), is combined with 1788 Connecticut obverse Miller 16 (1). (The same die as 1787 Miller 32 (9)), and in that combination die breaks (e) and (f) appear.

~~The striking by~~ ^{at their mint in New Haven} the Connecticut franchise holders ^{would have struck} ~~at their mint in New Haven~~ ^{any} coins having a British imitation

halfpence obverse die in combination with a Connecticut reverse die ^{such action would have been} ~~was~~ in violation of the Connecticut law and an

^{clear basis for the} ~~almost certain~~ forfeiture of their franchise ~~would have~~ ~~resulted~~. This was too big a risk to take. There must have been a reason why a reverse with INDE ET LIB and the Connecticut insignia on the shield should have been used first

to strike a coin with an imitation British obverse. If ~~the~~ ^{reverse D}

^{began its career} ^{the likelihood of it being used there} ~~at Machin's Mill it would be most unlikely that reverse D~~

~~would be used~~ for a while, then moved to New Haven, ~~and~~ then ^{is very remote} ~~back and forth again ending in New Haven,~~ [#] It, therefore, be-

comes most logical to assume that the production facilities at the Machin's Mill Mint were used with the ^{knowledge and probable} consent ~~and co-~~ operation of the holders of the Connecticut coinage franchise.

In that way dies which were available ^{might} ~~could~~ be kept in continual use by operating ^{the planchet cutting and machinery and the} coinage presses ^{at Machin's mill} ~~at both Newburgh and New Haven~~ to increase production and result in extra profit to all con-

~~The Connecticut coins have been identified as~~
~~of the Connecticut coinage~~

cerned. There were, no doubt, other Connecticut coins which

were struck at Machins Mills. ~~Perhaps James E. Atlee, who~~

~~made some of the dies for Connecticut cents, insisted that~~

~~Machin's Mill be given coinage work so long as Atlee and~~

~~his partners had no franchise of their own.~~ The final report

of the Connecticut coinage operations shows that a committee

investigated an accusation that some Connecticut coins were

coined elsewhere but found only that no unauthorized coin

~~was~~ ^{they did not pass on what took place elsewhere.} made in Connecticut. ^{was} The calibre of the men operating

the Connecticut franchise was not above any ^{manipulation} ~~manipulation~~ of this

nature as Abel Buell, who had ^{one-eighth} ~~one-eighth~~ partnership interest

and was the principal die maker of the Connecticut group,

had been convicted of counterfeiting paper money in 1764, and as a

^{penalty} ~~his ears clipped and a~~ ^{Pardoned} ~~had "C" branded upon his forehead, and had his ears clipped.~~

(Note: History of Buell and Oliver Wiswell).

~~There is some conclusion can be reached through~~
~~the reverse of the Connecticut Reverse I~~
~~to the reverse of the British halfpence~~
~~the 1764~~

~~There is a group of Connecticut coppers which are drastically different~~
~~style, letter punches and this group includes dies known to the Machins Mills production~~
~~this makes it entirely possible that Machins Mills must~~

The 1785 Immune Columbia is found combined with Nova Constellatio dies but the others are not. From the common source of the letter punches we therefore can conclude that Thomas Wyon made all of the above-mentioned dies, in Birmingham, thereby tying the Nova Constellatio group into a wider group of issues for America.

The fact that the workmanship on these dies is far superior in quality and style to American made Connecticut, Vermont and New Jersey dies of the period eliminates any possible doubt that the letter punches were sent to America for the preparation of some of those dies.

In 1785 Birmingham coining technique was likewise far superior to what Americans could do. The Nova Constellatio series are beautifully struck coins, as are their combinations with the 1785 Immune Columbia. Likewise, the 1786 Immunis Columbia - E Pluribus Unum combination is always well coined. Only one specimen of the Confederatio series, however, is strong and clear leaving open the problem of why the other Wyon dies and their combinations are found on poor planchets and are weakly struck. I hope, therefore, to show subsequently which of the Wyon dies were used in America.

The two Wyon dies with the legend "Inimica Tyrannis" were prepared in accordance with the suggestion found in Jefferson's notes that a gold coin called the "crown" be made with "An Indian with his bow in his left hand and his right hand thirteen arrows and his right foot on a crown; the inscription, manus inimica tyrannis." (Hands inimical to tyranny). Wyon's dies retained the key words and show an Indian stepping on a crown.

The two Wyon Confederatio dies are in accordance with a crude sketch of a copper coin to be called a "Decad" which sketch is found in the papers of the Continental Congress for May, 1785.

The fact that the Inimica Tyrannis dies, the Confederatio dies and Immune Col. Immunis Col. were not used for general token production but used only to prepare a few coins for what appears to be pattern purposes definitely indicates that an effort to secure Federal approval for a copper coining franchise with Wyon dies was being sought in 1785, the same type of franchise granted in 1787 to James Jarvis for the minting of the Fugio Cent. Wyon's dies, therefore, must be construed as Federal patterns, even the Immunis Col. 1786 - E Pluribus Unum (Shield) often referred

to as belonging to the New Jersey because the reverse design was copied for that state's coinage beginning in 1786 and Wyon's die itself was put in service a year later in combination with 1787 Maris obverse 6 and obverse 7.

NEW NETHERLANDS COIN CO., INC.
NEW YORK, N. Y.

Fall of 1787
at Morristown, N.J.
Walter Moulton

Many of the conclusions I have reached are based
~~deductions~~ ^{are justifiable} upon ~~conclusions~~ I believe ~~reasonable~~ from the facts pre-

sented. I sincerely hope that whatever new material I have out-
lined will stimulate others to find unknown related coins, ^{to find} new

evidence from known coins and ^{to reach} new conclusions from facts pre-

sented. I shall welcome challenges of ^{any} ~~my~~ conclusion and sug-
gestions of related evidence which I might have overlooked.

I have checked my work with others who have been interested
in this field and my only hope is to develop the real truth

as to a field of early American numismatics which has been

^{avoided and} neglected because of the difficulty in ascertaining facts, ~~and~~

~~and whenever~~ in disproving many theories and beliefs without factual

^{either proved or} ~~are disproved by newly discovered facts~~ it makes one
foundation. Though some of the coins described are imitation,

^{realize how many things} ~~are~~ there ~~are~~ to look for.

the enjoyment I derived from my research was truly genuine.

~~The discovery of the 1776~~ ^{imitation British} ~~halfpence~~

~~in the~~ ^{old County Board} supplied ~~that~~ ^{piece of}

~~the jigsaw of Machine Mills~~ ^{fit into the middle of the Machine Mills jigsaw puzzle}

I have found an imitation 1785 Nova Constellatio *taken*

from ~~probably~~ hand cut dies which appears to be a copy made ~~probably made in America between 1785 and 1788~~ *at the time of the die* being ~~the period~~ *very* when Nova Constellatio circulated freely.

In looking for defective or unusual letters in the Nova Constellatio series we can note a defective S on which

12*

Bumples's work like
That on N.T. Mon.
see. 80, 81.

the lower left ^{end} is cone shaped and

to the central part of the letter

die break
white line joining the serif and the

The punch for this S was used in the *Nova Constellatio* preparation of 1785, obverses 2 and 3; twice on 1785 reverse A; on the first S on 1785 reverse B and twice on the 1785

on with the Confederatio die (Crosby VII-10).

defective S punch was used only on the

American legends: INIMICA TYRANNIS

(foot on crown), INIMICA TYRANNIS AMERICANA

(Indian with foot on crown), 1786 IMMUNIS COLUMBIA (Justice seated), E PLURIBUS UNUM (Shield).

In looking further we can note an O which has abnormally wide sides or cheeks and is straight instead of curved on the lower right position. The punch for this O was used twice in the preparation of CONSELLATIO on 1785 obverses 2 and 3 but not for NOVA. In addition this same defective O punch was used only on the following coins with

My
I have found an imitation 1785 Nova Constellatio *taken*
from ~~probably~~ hand cut dies which appears to be a copy ~~made~~
probably made in America ~~between 1785 and 1788~~ *at the time of its dating* being
~~the period~~ *maybe* when Nova Constellatio circulated freely.

In looking for defective or unusual letters in the
Nova Constellatio series we can note a defective S on which
the ~~serif~~ *end* serif on the lower left *is* cone shaped and
so large and so close to the central part of the letter
that there is a definite line *die break* joining the serif and the
center of the letter. The punch for this S was used in the
Nova Constellatio
preparation of 1785 obverses 2 and 3; twice on 1785 reverse
A; on the first S on 1785 reverse B and twice on the 1785
die used in combination with the Confederatio die (Crosby VII-10).
In addition this same defective S punch was used only on the
following coins with American legends: INIMICA TYRANNIS
AMERICA (Indian with foot on crown), INIMICA TYRANNIS AMERICANA
(Indian with foot on crown), 1786 IMMUNIS COLUMBIA (Justice
seated), E PLURIBUS UNUM (Shield).

In looking further we can note an O which has ab-
normally wide sides or cheeks and is straight instead of
curved on the lower right position. The punch for this O
was used twice in the preparation of CONSELLATIO on 1785
obverses 2 and 3 but not for NOVA. In addition this same de-
fective O punch was used only on the following coins with

American legends:

CONFEDERATIO 1785 (Large stars)

CONFEDERATIO 1785 (Small stars)

IMMUNE COLUMBIA 1785 (Seated Justice)

IMMUNIS COLUMBIA 1786 (Seated Justice)

It will be noted that the defective S and the defective O are both found on the same dies where the legends contain both letters.

It should

Jefferson's advocacy of the ^{Dollar} ~~Spanish~~

~~dollar being necessary~~
decimal ratios subdivisions of the Dollar

Jefferson's advocacy of the Dollar as ~~the~~ the United States monetary unit and its subdivisions ⁱⁿ ~~as~~ ² decimal ratios to it must have been well known by 1783 because the ~~Washington Independence~~ ^{at least other foreign made copper} tokens of 1783 bear the denomination "one cent" and "1/100" ^{because the United States of America Co} ^{tokens} ^{conduct} ^{namely} ^{and the Double}

Washington & Independence 1783 — United States of America ^{tokens} ~~one cent~~ ^{underneath} ONE CENT (C. p. 350 No. 91) The metal Washington ~~one cent~~ ^{ONE CENT} ^{only} ^{tokens} Washington double head copper contains ^(C. p. 350 No. 92) ^{also} containing the words ONE CENT is attributed to 1783 because of its similarity to other 1783 Washington & Independence copper tokens. with a military knot. Washington's knot = military knot.

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The resemblance of the UNITED STATES CENTS of 1793-98 is too great - I think it may have been a later product than 1783. "UNITED STATES" is reported to be a mistake.

diés and any others intended for Federal coinage would be
sent to America where the actual coinage if approved would

take place. This can be proven to be correct by the follow-
ing evidence:

(1) The Confederatio with large stars is ^{also} found
with Gen. Washington ^{die} and the 1786 E Pluribus Unum (eagle)
which are of American origin.

(2) The E Pluribus Unum (shield) is first combined
with the English made Immunis Columbia 1786, then with
the American made 1786 E Pluribus Unum (eagle) and fin-
ally sent to New Jersey ^{in 1787} and combined with a ~~common~~ New
Jersey ^{obverse} ~~coat~~ Maris 6-

(3) The Confederatio with small stars is also found
with the American made 1787 E Pluribus Unum (eagle with
stars).

(4) The impurities in the copper planchets ^{indicates that the metal was not of} and the poor ^{quality common to the}

(5) ^{the poor} striking of the combinations of almost all of the Con-
federatio and Inimica Tyrannis ^{die markings} combinations indicates ^{american}

coinage in America as no Birmingham coiner would ^{make} turn
~~out a pattern~~ if it were ~~not~~ attractive and clear.

^{the striking was not sharp and strong}

The combinations of the 1785 Confederatio dies and the
Inimica Tyrannis dies with one another and with other coins
are, unfortunately, not accurately set forth in Crosby. Neither

Inimica Tyrannis Americana or Immunis Columbia 1786 have been found combined with ^{the 1785} Confederatio 1785 with large stars, so far as I know, and since Crosby expressly states he did not see these coins and knew of them only through others, we can assume that they were not genuine. The first of these ~~coins~~ ^{combinations} unknown ^{is actually found struck with counter made by Bolen *} ~~was undoubtedly made with Bolen dies about prior to Crosby's work *~~ ^{either could have been an electotype and} and the other could have been an ~~electro~~ ^{type and} thus could have misled Crosby's informant. There are also two combinations which were unknown to Crosby, Gen. Washington combined with the E Pluribus Unum (shield) and with the 1786 E Pluribus Unum (eagle).

* See Richard D. Kenney, Struck Copies of Early American Coins, Coin Collectors Journal Jan. Feb., 1952, where copy is illustrated and so-called original is made up of pictures from ~~two coins.~~

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NEW YORK, N. Y.

The two combinations
(14a, 15a on Pl.
VII) ~~into~~ ^{into} ~~into~~
Crosby
14a on p. 352
15a on p. 318

The original Vermont coinage franchise to Reuben Harmon ^{under which 1785 and 1786 coins were minted} was to expire on June 30, 1787 and was renewed by the General Assembly of Vermont on October 24, 1786 for 8 years, the first 3 years without royalty and the balance with a $2\frac{1}{2}\%$ royalty payment. The bond required of Harmon for the renewed franchise was posted on February 23, 1787. ^{When} Harmon ^{joined} and his associates joined the Machin's Mill partnership on ~~at their motive~~ April 18, 1787, ^{was} apparently ^{to} solve their coin production problems, ^{since} ~~They already had a franchise and had produced some coins under it in 1785 and 1786.~~

~~When the four Vermont associates joined the Machin's Mill partnership~~ they ^{sold} ^{value of the} ~~yielded~~ 60% of the Vermont franchise to others. ^{by so doing,} The hope of an interest in other ^{coining} franchises could not have been too attractive to them as they were unlimited in the amount of coins they could produce. ^{Regardless of what copper coins were made} ^{they would have} under the Vermont franchise. ~~and had~~ to work the coins into ^{or sell them in wholesale quantities to others for that purpose} circulation themselves. We can, therefore, assume that the Vermont ^{would} wanted the diemakers, ^{the} planchet production and ^{the} coining facilities which were available at ~~the~~ Machin's Mill. Their own facilities were inadequate and their ^{previous} production of copper coins ^{was very limited} ~~in 1785 and 1786 was small~~, as evidenced by the small ^{1785 and 1786} number of Vermont coins of ~~those years~~ now available, as compared to ^{the large number of} Connecticut and New Jersey coins ^{for corresponding} ~~the~~ years.

Crosses of St Andrew and St George in the

The use and reuse of the British Union on the
reverse dies of
shield of the 1787 and 1788 Vermont coinage indicates a

major
~~mistake or~~ compromise on the part of those holding the

Vermont franchise. The holders of the Connecticut franchise

from the beginning of their coinage in 1785 ~~had~~ *used* the three

vines constituting the State emblem placed in the shield ~~xx~~

on all of their coins. The Nova Eborac ~~coin~~ *coppers of 1787* had the New

York insignia of the Rising Sun on their shield. The Vermont

coinage already had used the Vermont emblem consisting of

One 1786 INDE ET LIB reuse
four haystacks on the shield of ~~the 1786 Henry Bond~~ (Ryder 9) *and*
apparently had the same emblem on the two other
although it is not used any emblem on the two other
~~and no discernable emblem is found on the 1786 Vermont~~
(Ryder 10 and 11) A
cents with a shield on the reverse as there is more discernible
~~it is~~. It is, therefore, clear that the delay, difficulty

and cost of having new hubs prepared with which to make new

dies for Vermont coinage were avoided by using some existing

hubs.

22

An examination of hundreds of ^{the} counterfeit English halfpence of different dies discloses two major differences between the British made counterfeits and ^{the genuine, conclude are} the American made imitations.

On the obverse ~~the counterfeits~~ ^{is} a single leaf ~~from the~~ ⁱⁿ ~~the~~ ^{the} from the ~~leaf~~ ⁱⁿ ~~the~~ ^{the} extends above the head ~~on the~~ ^{on the} on the American made ~~and~~ ^{and} a cluster of three leaves extends above the head on the British made copper as on the genuine English halfpence.

On the reverse the shield on the American made coins has the British ~~shield~~ ^{shield} ~~composed of four plain~~ ^{without any} ~~stripes~~ ^{fillets} without any fillets between the crosses and the field while on the British made coins there are fillets on the sides of ~~the~~ ^{the} the crosses as on the genuine English halfpence. The plain bands composing the crosses on the American made halfpence are like those on all Vermont reverses. ~~On the~~ ^{there are} ~~English~~ ^{English} ~~imitation~~ ^{four} ~~four~~ ^{distinct} ~~lines~~ ^{lines} on each arm of each cross.

On the

Better to give
line cut by
enlarged plate

Sufficient proof is now available to justify the recognition of American made imitation British halfpence as a separate series of American token money lawfully minted at Machin's Mills, Ulster County, New York, in 1787 and 1788. They

have been denied their rightful place because they have been referred to as counterfeits, ^{instead of token money.} ~~By~~ ^{their varieties} and have never been ~~sufficiently~~

~~identified and~~ ^{prepared,} classified. ^{officially authorized} The evidence of their ^{and} issuance and

use is intimately intertwined with Vermont, Connecticut, ^{and} New Jersey and ~~other~~ ^{other} American copper coinages. ^{state coinages and with the unauthorized} During the period

from 1785 to 1788, American private interests desired to coin

copper ~~during this period~~ under official franchise or ~~openly~~ to

be traded in, ^{openly} as a commodity because the ^{market price of copper plus the} ~~cost of obtaining and~~

coining ^{cost} ~~copper~~ was substantially less than the customary

circulating value of ^{other} ~~the~~ copper ^{coins and tokens.} ~~halfpenny token or halfpenny~~

~~coin.~~ The profits to private interests from coining copper in

England ^{and shipping it to} had demonstrated to the Americans the economic advantages of ^{such an} ~~the~~ undertaking.

They have been called Ten Cent, Ring tokens, debased copper

Scattered through Crosby's "Early Coins of America" are various references to imitation halfpence imported from England and imitation halfpence circulating in America. Crosby infers that some of these halfpence may have been minted in America but does not give any description of the halfpence themselves.

Wyllys Betts, in 1886, describes some of the imitation English halfpence and their mulings and ~~laid the ground work~~ *gave some of the* ~~for this article.~~ *evidence of their American origin.*

The eighteenth century iron kettle which was excavated in Stepney, Fairfield County, Connecticut, in 1950 contained convincing proof of what coppers were circulating in that area ~~prior to the adoption of the Constitution in 1789.~~ *this container held* ~~It contained~~ 8 Vermont cents, ~~about~~ 125 Connecticut cents dated from 1785 through 1788, 72 ~~counterfeit~~ *imitation British* halfpence, of which 13 ~~were~~ *dated 1778, 1787 and 1788* American made, and the balance British made, one New York, 3 Vermont-Britania mulings. It is to be noted from the foregoing that there were no halfpence which had legends different from the standard legend and no farthings whatsoever. The encrustations on the coins and the circumstances under which they were found indicate that they must have been buried about 1789 when ~~these coppers ceased to be used in ordinary circulation.~~ *became unacceptable due to their lack of intrinsic value* public confidence in these coppers collapsed because of ~~the~~ *their* ~~lack of intrinsic value and the~~ *great* quantities in which they circulated. ~~this is a true cross section~~

In spite of the fact that the Fairfield County board was not kept intact until ~~1788~~ a ^{complete} study of the coins was made, the only coins removed before such ~~an~~ ^{about 8} examination were unrecirculated Vermont first type cents, and about 20 unrecirculated Connecticut cents. The ~~balance~~ ^{majority} of the coppers could be categorized as follows:

- 1 1788 Vermont Cent (Ryder 27)
- 18 ± ~~1787~~ 1788 Vermont cents ~~removed~~ (removed)
- 2 1787 Vermont - Britannia mintage (Ryder 13)
- 220 ± Connecticut cents, ~~the later~~ ~~of the later~~ (removed)
- 105 ^{of the} Connecticut cents consisting of 74 ^{different} varieties with a dispersion of dates as follows:
with 8 dated 1785; 18 dated 1786; 75 dated 1787; and 4 dated 1788. ~~1788~~
- 1 None ~~known~~ ~~but it is~~ 1787
- 1 Counterfeit ~~1787~~ George II ^{2nd halfpence} (date illegible) (mostly counterfeit)
- 17 Counterfeit George II halfpence (misc. dates) mostly counterfeit
- 6 Counterfeit George III 2nd halfpence (misc. dates) mostly counterfeit
- 32 Counterfeit George II halfpence, ~~mostly~~ ~~mostly~~ counterfeit
3 dated 1771, 1 dated 1772, 3 dated 1773, 4 dated 1774, 18 dated 1775, ~~1 dated 1776~~ and 3 illegible dates
- 3 Counterfeit ~~1776~~ George III halfpence (2 varieties)
- 3 Counterfeit 1778 George III halfpence (1 variety)
- 6 Counterfeit 1787 George III halfpence (3 varieties)
- 4 Counterfeit 1788 George III halfpence (1 variety)
- 209 ~~Total~~ Approximate total.

In the total of 72 ~~counterfeit~~ halfpence there were not more than a few which appear genuine. ~~A~~ ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~last~~ 16 pieces are dated during years when British halfpence were not minted ~~and as with the rest~~ ~~at least 14 of those~~ ~~can~~ be shown to be ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~same~~ ~~minted~~ ~~at~~ ~~Heckin's~~ ~~Mill~~.

In the iron kettle which was dug up in Stepney,

Fairfield County, Connecticut in 1950, there were found over

200 copper coins consisting of 11 Vermont cents, including 2

Auctori Vermont-Britannia mulings (Ryder 13), about 125 Connecticut

cents dated from 1785 through 1788, and 72 counterfeit half-

pence of which 16 were dated 1776 and thereafter. These

coins were found under circumstances which indicated that

they must have been buried shortly after the date of the

latest coin which was 1788 as this type of copper coinage

ceased to circulate ^{in America} in 1789. All of the counterfeit halfpence

were counterfeits of English and Irish halfpence without any

deviation from the standard legends. This fact is a reconfirm-

ation of the belief that coins with variations in the legend

such as Ganges ~~III~~ ^{III} Rate, Gregory III, Pon, Britain Rules,

etc. were not shipped to America and were not in circulation

here. There were no farthings ^{in the kettle,}

~~confirming the fact that~~ ^{indicating genuine & counterfeit}
~~confirming the fact that farthings did not~~
~~circulate in America~~

put in later.

the outstanding

~~The~~ coin in the Fairfield County hoard was an

imitation English halfpence dated 1776 with "GEORCIUS" instead

and BRITANNIA 1776 on the reverse.

of "GEORCIUS" in the obverse legend. This coin has never before

apparently is ~~an~~ ~~very~~ entirely new. Its major
been described and ~~perhaps was never before been known. Its~~
importance as a connecting link in ~~the~~ early American copper coinage is
underscored from the following characteristics it possesses:
~~contains the following evidence which appears to be of major~~

importance:

1. The obverse die (GEORCIUS III REX, with ^{mailed} bust facing right) is the identical die ~~which~~ *which was used in* combined with the
Liber Natus Libertatem Defendo die, thus tying it through this
the source of 1787 coins bearing ~~the~~ New York insignia.
muling to ^A ~~the New York coins of 1787.~~

2. The bust on the obverse was cut into the die
with the same hub used in making the dies for the obverse
of practically all 1787 and 1788 Vermont ^{Coppers} ~~coins.~~

3. The seated figure on the reverse was cut into
the die with the same hub used in making the dies for the
reverse of practically all 1787 and 1788 Vermont ^{Coppers} ~~coins.~~

4. Many of the letter punches used on both the
obverse and reverse dies are the same ones used on 1787 and
1788 Vermont ^{Coppers} ~~coins~~ and on some Connecticut ^{Coppers} ~~coins.~~

5. There is no attempt to recut either "G" in
"GEORCIUS" into a "G", which fact is also true in the ^{obverse} ~~muling~~
of the GEORCIUS III REX ^{which is muled} ~~obverse~~ ^A with the Immune Columbia
~~1785 reverse.~~ ^{coins with the misspelling}
The bust on the obverse of both ^A "GEORCIUS"

~~coins~~ is cut from the same hub and some of the letters are
from the same punches but ^{strongly enough} not the "C".

~~stubby~~
6. The number punches used in cutting the small

1776 into the die are the identical number punches used in

cutting the 17 and 6 in the date of the 1786 Connecticut ~~Coppers~~

~~with~~ Miller Reverse A, ^{and D(1), D(2) and D(3)} indicating the 1776 ~~date~~
was fictitious and that the ~~die~~ ^{die} was ~~prepared~~ ^{prepared} of ~~1786~~
contemporaneously with the 1786 die.

7. The shield on the reverse has a British Union

made of four bands forming two crosses without any fillets

between the crosses and the field. In other words, the edge

of each arm of the cross is a single line instead of ^{the} double

line ~~found~~ found on all genuine British halfpence and on British

counterfeit halfpence. ^{the importance of mistake in identifying} American-made imitations
of British halfpence will be pointed out subsequently.

8. The size, weight, color, texture ^{and} weak striking

are the same as found on ^{many} ~~practically all~~ 1787 and 1788 Vermont ~~and Connecticut~~

~~at the same place and~~
^{Coppers} indicating they were struck about the same time.

A very common muling of an obverse with an American legend and a reverse with a British legend is the VERMON AUCTORI (bust right) & BRITANIA 1787 (seated lady) known as Ryder 13. The obverse die develops a straight line break from the center of the top straight down through the bottom and must have disintegrated in striking this combination. The obverse is not found on any other Vermont coin (i.e. with the INDE ET LIB reverse) and.

The bust is from a different hub than any other Vermont coins, but the hub used in making the obverse die, however, is the same hub as used to make the 1788 Imitation British halfpence and perhaps other imitation halfpence.

The reverse on Ryder 13 is always found weak, the date

and first part of the legend being virtually unreadable. It

is little wonder that the reverse die was in such a condition as it was.

It is first found strong and clear with three GEORGIUS III REX

obverses; there is found in worn condition with an obverse which

was previously used with a 1788 Britannia reverse, then with both the

Vermont Auctori and then in further worn condition with another

ings clarify the fact that the die was

to pass as a Vermont reverse but just

natural manner. The Vermont Auctori die

, prepared carefully after the other bust

right Vermont cents (except Ryder 27 which had been made as evi-

denced by its clear detail, but was not used or delivered to

the Vermont coiners probably because the die to which it was

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was done for a trial use
and then broke
1788 would show
the way while developed a heavy
die

A very common muling of an ~~obverse with an American legend~~
~~and a reverse with a British legend~~ is the VERMON AUCTORI (bust
right) → BRITANIA 1787 (seated lady) known as Ryder 13. The
obverse die develops a straight line break from the center of
the top straight down through the bottom and must have disinte-
grated in striking this combination. The obverse is not found on
any other Vermont coins (i.e. with ^{the} INDE ET LIB reverse) and

^{used to make}
The bust is from a different hub than any other Vermont coins, but
^{identical bust hub}
The hub used in making the obverse die, ~~however~~, is the same hub
as used to make Clf 1/2 p. obv. (1788) and perhaps several others.

^{a poor impression}
The reverse on Ryder 13 is always found weak, the date

and first part of the legend being virtually unreadable. It

is little wonder that the reverse die was in such a condition ^{as it was}
^{used in making from first impression half piece}
~~as it~~ is first found strong and clear with three ^{different} GEORGIUS III REX
obverses; ^{then} there is found in worn condition with ^{substantially} a GEORGIUS III REX
obverse which ^{in unreadable condition}
was previously used with a 1788 Britannia reverse, then with ^{both the}
Vernon Auctori and ^{and a fifth GEORGIUS} then in further worn condition with another

REX obverse. Six known matings clarify the fact that the die was
^{deliberately}
not defaced or marred ~~to~~ to pass as a Vermont reverse but just
wore down ^{continued} from use in a natural manner. The Vernon Auctori die
was, we must assume, prepared carefully after the other bust
right Vermont cents (except Ryder 27 which had been made as evi-
denced by its clear detail, but was not used or delivered to
the Vermont coiners probably because the die to which it was

in 1787 or 1788
to be mated ^{either} was not yet cut. Since the 1787 reverse die by its
mating has been shown to have been used ^{with an obverse mated to as 1788} first with the Vermont
^{obverse} die in 1788 we can ^{conclude} ~~assume~~ that the reverse ^{Vermont mintage was mated} was never completed
~~and~~ ^{ing} to keep the coin press at Machin's Mills in full production ^{by mated}
the Vermont die ~~was used~~ with any available die which happened
to be on hand.

Write about breaking of dies at any time

Need to keep going to make money

THOMAS MACHIN MAKES A MINT

When Thomas Machin began the construction of mill equipment to coin copper he had already had a remarkable record of engineering success.

He was born on March 20, 1744 near Wolverhampton, in Staffordshire, England. He worked for James Brindley in the construction of English canals and achieved a reputation as a competent engineer. He emigrated to New York in 1772 and soon moved to Boston where, in 1773, he was one of the "celebrants" at the Boston Tea Party. His enthusiasm for the American cause found him as an artillery lieutenant at the Battle of Bunker Hill where he was wounded in the arm. On January 18, 1776 he became a second lieutenant in the Continental Army and his engineering skill was used in the fortification of Boston. George Washington recognized his ability and on July 21, 1776 assigned him to the staff of Colonel George Clinton to devise means to protect Hudson River navigation. (Jeptha R. Simms, History of Schoharie County and Border Wars of New York, Albany, 1845, p. 550-600). His study of the various means to prevent the British ships from advancing up the Hudson River brought him to Newburgh and, no doubt, to the site of the copper coinage mill.

Machin was promoted to a Captaincy in the Continental Army on January 1, 1777. Later that year, at Fort Montgomery,

on the Hudson River just below West Point, Machin was wounded in an artillery battle with a British frigate and recuperated at the home of George Clinton, then a Brigadier General in the Continental Army / Governor of the State of New York and a Brigadier General of the New York militia. In May, 1778 Machin made his great contribution to the winning of the American Revolution by the construction of a 186 ton chain, *floated by logs and* stretching 1700 feet across the Hudson River.

Although this was the third American chain blockade, its heavy links, *by Machin* designed, *under his direction* and forged ~~by Machin~~, made it successful. In 1781 he was ordered to Yorktown to assist in laying out the American works for the siege. While there he was asked to demonstrate his artillery skill and in so doing he not only hit but set fire to a British ship from a shore battery.

On April 17, 1783 Machin informed Governor George Clinton, by letter, from Murderer's Creek near Newburgh, New York, that a beginning of the works at the Great Pond had been made and that a residence would be ready in five weeks. The Great Pond is now known as Orange Lake and covers about 400 acres northwest of Newburgh, *(now Orange County)* then Ulster County, New York. This spring-fed lake had the Indian name of Quassuk and its outlet was first known as Quassaick Creek and later as Chamber's Creek. Machin, in building his mills, cut a canal a little to the east and at a slightly

higher point than the outlet of the Great Pond and erected a dam and gate at the natural outlet to raise the water level and control the use of the water power. The canal and creek were joined in such a manner so that water from either would flow down a raceway to the mills 70 rods from the lake and 18 feet lower in level.

Since there has been no trace remaining of the building constituting the coining mill since about 1825 we are fortunate to have these facts from the record of litigation in 1827 over the right to use the creek's water power. (Trimble et al vs. Belknap, Second Circuit, Equity term of the ~~Second~~ Circuit Court at Poughkeepsie.)

An abstract of title shows that the ownership of 108 acres adjoining the pond on both sides of the outlet was conveyed on March 20, 1782 by Munson Ward to George Clinton and was owned by Clinton until October 28, 1793. Machin's use of the land for his mills during this period was as a tenant or agent of George Clinton who continued for eighteen successive terms to be governor of New York. (George Clinton subsequently was elected Vice President of the United States in 1804 for the Thomas

Jefferson's second term and in 1808 for James Madison's first

In addition to owning ^{the land at} Machin's Mills and having his feet on a platform for a New York court
term. He changed numismatic history when, in 1811, he ~~cast the~~ as *presiding officer in the Senate* cast the *original* deciding vote ~~in the Senate~~ against the renewal of the ^{original} charter of the Bank of the United States).

Machin erected a saw mill and a copper mill and named the place "New Grange". The copper or coinage mill "was of wood, thirty by forty feet, and two stories high. The metal used was copper, obtained by melting up cannon and leaving out the zinc in the alloy. The copper was then run into moulds, and rolled into flat sheets of the thickness of the coin and from one to two feet wide. It was then punched with a screw, moved by a lever, so adjusted that half a revolution would press out a disk of the size of the coin. The blanks were then put into a cylinder and revolved with sand, saw-dust and water. They were generally left revolving through the night; and the coiners circulated the story that the devil came by night to work for them. They also sometimes worked in masks to create a terror in the neighborhood. One night in the cylinder would wear the edges of the blanks smooth. The coining press was a screw, with an iron bar about ten feet long through the top. On each end of this bar was a leaden weight of perhaps five hundred pounds. The threads of the screw were large and square and worked through an iron frame. Ropes were attached to each end of the bar, and it was swung about half way around by two men pulling upon the ropes; two other men pulled the lever back, and a fifth laid on the blank and took off the coin with his fingers. The last operative named sat in a pit so that the lever would not touch his head.

U

The coinage was about sixty per minute". (Edward Rittenber,
History of the Town of Newburgh, Newburgh, 1859, p 135; also
Edward Rittenber, History of Orange County, Newburgh, N.Y. 1875,
p. 212.)

Machin's army experience and connections put him in a
position to purchase brass cannon remaining from the Revolutionary
War. After smelting out a substantial amount of zinc from the
brass, the remaining copper with its impurities was his source
of raw material for coins. (John J. Nutt, "Newburgh", Newburgh,
1891, p.54.)

The coinage mill was converted into a grist mill about
1789 and the coining machinery was removed. The coining press
was carried for a number of years as part of the ballast of the
sloop "Newburgh" which was built in the shipyards at Newburgh
and captained by a neighbor of Machin's, Isaac Belknap. (Crosby
p. 191.)

It is also clear that the words "Hard Ware" were applied to counterfeit British coppers generally to permit them to be manifested ^{for transportation} ~~for shipment~~ and otherwise described and discussed without disclosing the immorality of their ^{sale in bulk} ~~bulk shipment and sale~~. This is confirmed by specific language of the above report and reconfirmed

by the language used in the Machin's Mills partnership agreements.

~~in the early nineteenth century bills of lading in the national archives of the United States~~

I have avoided the use of the expression "Bungtown

coppers" because no explanation of its origin has been clearly

established. However, since Americans ^{many} ~~that~~ knew the source of the ^{unauthorized} ~~counterfeit~~

fake copper was Birmingham and referred to the coinage of half-

pence from that town as Birmingham coppers. It is quite ^{possible} ~~likely~~

that Bungtown is a contraction of Birmingham Town. The use of the

word "Town" after a city's name (for example: London Town) was

not uncommon, and the contraction of town names like Worcestershire

to Wooster justifies the belief that Bungtown was a contraction

of Birmingham Town. Another reason I avoided using

the word "Bungtown" is because ^{it is used today} ~~it makes~~ no distinction between

the spurious coppers which circulated only in England and the

counterfeit coppers which circulated both in England and America.

^{The great bulk of}

Counterfeit coppers shipped from England to America

after the American Revolution continued to bear the date of the

last year of the genuine English issues, namely, 1775. As to

those which bore

~~AMERICAN~~ ^{STATE} REGULATION OF UNAUTHORIZED COPPER COINAGE
FROM 1783 TO 1789

At the end of the American Revolution the complete depreciation of the paper money of both the Continental Congress and the individual States resulted in a reestablishment of English, Spanish and other foreign coin as the principal circulating medium. The use of pounds, shillings and pence as the money of account was retained generally at the customary exchange differentials which existed prior to Independence. Genuine, counterfeit and unauthorized copper coin continued to circulate during the hostilities and ^{were} ~~was~~ increased in great quantity by continual shipments from England after hostilities ceased. The Federal government under the Articles of Confederation did not at any time pass any counterfeiting laws or regulate the copper coin in circulation. Each American state handled its copper currency problems as it saw fit and determined the extent, if any, to which the coinage or circulation of copper coins was to be ~~regulated~~. *permitted within its jurisdiction*

Vermont, Connecticut, New Jersey, Massachusetts and the Federal government authorized their own coppers, but the principal problem was the regulation of coppers already in circulation or coming from unauthorized sources.

VERMONT

Vermont though not one of the thirteen states represented in the Continental Congress asserted its independent statehood by being the first jurisdiction in the United States to authorize the coinage of money after the Revolutionary War. The original act of June 15, 1785 required the private individuals who were granted the franchise to strike coppers to weigh 48 to the pound, but because it appeared that they would "exceed in weight the Copper Coins used in the United States of America" the weight was reduced to 70 to the pound by supplemental act of October 27, 1785. The action of Vermont demonstrates the futility of any one state trying to improve the standard of copper coinage without regulating all copper coins. If it authorized coins heavier than other coppers in circulation the heavier coppers would be taken out of circulation by the public or find their way to other states. If the newly struck coins were to be no heavier than other coppers in circulation the quantity of unredeemable light weight copper in circulation was merely being increased and its evil further promoted. In the coinage under the Vermont franchise like in other state coinages to follow, ideals yielded to a temporary economic solution without consideration of the inevitable collapse of unredeemable coppers without substantial intrinsic value.

An act ascertaining the rates at which coined silver and gold and English halfpence and farthings should pass within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts was approved on October 26, 1784 (Perpetual Laws of Massachusetts, Boston, 1788, p. 183) reestablishing the Spanish dollar at 6 Massachusetts shillings and valuing English halfpence at *as was originally provided in the 1750 act.* 2/3rds of a Massachusetts pence. Other

coins were valued in proportion. This legal tender regulation was a continuation of the policy of stabilization under which Massachusetts endeavored to prevent coin from passing *at a premium.*

While Massachusetts was considering the establishment of a mint to coin copper and other money an act of July 4, 1786 was passed making it a crime to import false, forged or counterfeit copper money with the intent of putting it into circulation. The act also prohibited counterfeiting in Massachusetts of English copper halfpence and farthings. (Perpetual Laws of Massachusetts, Boston, 1788, p. 225). *Immediately* ~~In October of the same year~~ after the coining operations were authorized *by the* Act of October 17, 1786 the governor suggested the enactment of a law against the frauds and impositions arising from the circulation of foreign copper, but the cents and half cents issued by the Massachusetts Mint were never coined in sufficient quantity to replace coppers ~~coins~~ already in circulation and no law eliminating *existing* ~~such other~~ coppers from circulation was ever enacted. Existing unauthorized or counterfeit copper coins were therefore permitted to continue to circulate and the importation and circulation of genuine copper coinage of other American States and *of* England was not restrained.

CONNECTICUT

When a petition to strike copper coins was filed with the General Assembly of Connecticut on October 18, 1785 it was pointed out that as to copper coin the English "unrestrained by any Law, are countirfeiting in vast abundance, that others even of our own Countrymen, &, your Memorialists are sorry to say some, even of their fellow Citizens have attempted the same nefarious Business, and are now stamping a Copper Coin much under standard weight and Endeavouring to Impose the same upon the Inhabitants of this State * * *". In this manner the attention of the public was called to the fact that the counterfeiting of English copper was going on in Connecticut. The determination as to what that coin was will be subsequently considered.

As requested Connecticut authorized the minting of its own copper coins by an act passed October 20, 1785. To protect such coinage it was made unlawful by an act passed October 24, 1785 for other copper to be coined in Connecticut without official permission. In May, 1786 after substantial quantities of Connecticut coppers were in circulation ^{the passage of legislation} ~~it~~ was proposed to prohibit the importation of more than 50 of any copper coin except those authorized by the United States or by any individual state or except those of equal value to Connecticut cents. The preamble of this ~~proposal~~ describes the existing conditions as follows:

(Connecticut) 8/19/54

"Whereas great Quantities of base and Counterfeit Copper Coin are already imported & Circulating in this State and there is great Danger of further Importations thereof, to the great Loss & Injury of the Citizens of this State * * ".

It should be noted that although the evils of importation of more base and counterfeit copper coins are pointed out there was no prohibition against importing counterfeits of full weight and made of good quality copper. Because no type of copper coins of proper quality and weight of copper, whether authorized or unauthorized, genuine or counterfeit, were to be excluded might have been the reason, this proposed statute failed to pass.

NEW YORK

The weak 1753 New York Colonial act relating to counterfeit copper coin was last republished in Hugh Gaine's Laws of New York in 1774 and was continued as the law of the State of New York by the provisions of Article XXXV of the 1777 New York

Constitution which automatically kept in force all existing colonial laws not specifically changed. *Yet when John Holt, the "Printer to the State" by order of the Legislature pub-*

"Laws of the State" *"* lished his compilation of New York ~~laws~~ in 1782 the 1753 act

truly ~~was omitted~~ *H when* was omitted. By act of February 7, 1788, a new counterfeiting

in New York on February 7, 1788 law was passed, encompassing penalties for making or knowingly

passing counterfeit gold or silver coin or bills of credit *at*

and providing that "all other Acts or Clauses of Acts, heretofore made, concerning Forgery and Counterfeiting or the Punish-

ment thereof, shall be and hereby are repealed". Although, *copper coin was* ~~the~~ *not even mentioned in the* provisions of the February 7, 1788 act ~~did not even mention~~

~~copper coin~~ it certainly had the effect of repealing the 1753

act relating to counterfeit copper coin. However, the New York

Assembly specifically *again* repealed the 1753 act, *on* March 12, 1788

when it repealed a group of other acts in preparation for the

1789 publication of a general revision of all of its laws.

The conclusion must be reached that the 1753 act probably remained as law until February 7, 1788 even though its

omission from the 1782 compilation of New York laws indicated it was generally unenforced and obsolete.

To the foregoing confusion as to the 1753 act a further complication must be added.

An act to regulate the circulation of copper coin in New York passed April 20, 1787 provided that after August 1, 1787 no coppers should circulate except those of pure copper weighing at least 48 to the pound. This was a standard just slightly below the standard for English halfpence of George III, 46 of which weighed one pound. It was also provided that 20 of such coppers should pass for a New York shilling. The only penalty was seizure and a civil suit for 5 times the amount tendered. This law made no distinction between authorized or unauthorized coin, state or federal, foreign or domestic, genuine or counterfeit, so long as it was copper of proper weight. It therefore could have been very effectively argued that this 1787 act was in conflict with the 1753 act relating to seizure of counterfeit English copper because any copper of sufficient weight to comply with the 1787 act was approved for circulation in New York by implication.

NEW JERSEY

New Jersey authorized the minting of its own copper coins in 1785 and as a part of the enabling act of June 1, 1786 granting to private interests the franchise to coin copper, the striking of any unauthorized coin in New Jersey was prohibited. When the circulation of authorized but unredeemable New Jersey coppers was well established New Jersey then undertook by act approved June 4, 1787 to eliminate all other copper coin from circulation except New Jersey and Federal coppers by providing that if a person was offered in payment some other type of copper coin such person could sue the offeror for 10 times such amount, but no criminal penalty was provided.

IMPLIED REGULATIONS OF COUNTERFEIT COPPERS

It can be noted from the foregoing state laws and from the previous colonial acts that good counterfeits of English copper had become an accepted portion of the American circulating medium. Those states which authorized their own coinage had attacked the evil by confining the coiners to those who could be watched but who added to the evil by authorizing and encouraging more unredeemable coppers to flow into circulation. Massachusetts tried to keep additional unauthorized coppers from going into circulation. New York had no specific law against counterfeiting copper and a general confusion existed in its laws as to passing or possessing counterfeit copper which was freely circulating. Only New Jersey had made a bold attempt to eliminate, by law, the circulation of counterfeits, genuine English copper and the copper coins of other states. By the laws and deliberations of those states which changed its statutes and those states which did not pass regulatory measures, it became clear that, as a whole, the states chose to accept the situation as it was and merely tried to improve it by eliminating light weight and base metal counterfeits rather than to straighten out the situation in its entirety. It could not be said that

the states were relying upon Federal regulation as there was no assurance, until 1789, that the Federal Government ~~permitted~~ would be permitted to undertake such action. The stage was set for the minting of full weight American made imitations or counterfeits of English halfpence because of the profit in such an endeavor. Whatever illegality or immorality would ordinarily be implied by counterfeiting would not, at that time, be applicable to the American production of coppers in imitation of or as copies of English copper halfpence.

EXTRACTS FROM JOURNALS OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS

PUBLISHED BY THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

July 6, 1785

Resolved

"That the money unit of the United States of America be one dollar."

"That the smallest coin be of copper of which 200 shall pass for one dollar."

"That the several pieces shall increase in decimal ratio."

April 8, 1786

The Library of Congress has a report on the Mint and on Coinage.

August 8, 1786

An Act describing the denominations and content of coins to be struck by the United States of America. Contains the following interesting information:

"Mills: The lowest money of account, of which 1000 shall be equal to the federal dollar, or money unit,"

"That the two copper coins shall be as follows: One equal to the 100th part of the federal dollar to be called A Cent: And one equal to the 200th part of the federal dollar to be called A Half-Cent."

"That two pounds and a quarter avoirdupois weight of copper shall constitute 100 cents."

Mint price of troy pound of silver (11 parts fine
1 part alloy) \$ 9.92

Mint price of troy pound of gold (11 parts fine
1 part alloy) \$209.77

Dollar shall contain 375-64/100 grains of pure silver

Half Dollar shall contain 187-82/100 grains of pure silver

Double Dime shall contain 75-128/1000 grains of pure silver

Dime shall contain 37-560/1000 grains of pure silver

Ten Dollar gold shall contain 246-268/1000 grains of pure gold

Five Dollar gold shall contain 123-134/1000 grains of pure gold.

Oct. 16, 1786

An ordinance was passed entitled, "An ordinance for the establishment of the Mint of the United States of America, and for regulating the value and alloy of Coin." This ordinance orders compliance with the resolution dated August 8, 1786, but contains the following:

"And it is hereby further ordained that the copper coin struck under the authority of the United States in Congress assembled, shall be receivable in all taxes, or payments due to the United States in the proportion of 5 dollars for every hundred dollars so paid; but that no other copper coin whatsoever, shall be receivable in any taxes or payments whatsoever to the United States.

"And whereas, The great quantities of base copper coin daily imported into, or manufactured within the several states, is become so highly injurious to the interest and commerce of the same, as to require the immediate interposition of the powers vested by the confederation in the United States in Congress assembled, of regulating the value of copper, the coin so current as aforesaid:

"It is hereby ordained, That no foreign copper coin whatsoever shall after the first day of September 1787 be current within the U. States of America: And that no copper coin struck under the authority of a particular State, shall pass at a greater value than one federal dollar for two pounds and one quarter of a pound, avoirdupois weight, of such copper coin."

Nov. 1, 1786

James Jarvis offers to furnish the United States with 300 tons of copper coin, and the letter is read. The original letter is in Papers of the Continental Congress No. 139, Folio 491. It contains the following items of interest:

That 2-1/4 pounds avoirdupois of copper will be used in one Federal dollar which will be equivalent to 4 shillings sixpence sterling;

That Jarvis will pay to the United States a 10% premium on the value of the coins made;

That he would buy copper from the public at ninepence sterling per pound and pay the Government a 25% premium on the amount purchased;

That he would let the United States pay him for the coins bonds of ten, fifteen or twenty year maturity.

April 21, 1787

Congress resolves to contract with James Jarvis for 300 tons of copper coins and to pay him in twenty year 6% bonds. It requires him to pay a 15% premium instead of a 10% premium.

May 11, 1787

The Committee submits seven devices for the coins to be made.

May 12, 1787

A contract is entered into with Jarvis for delivery of

25 tons	by 12/1/87
25 tons	by 3/15/88
50 tons	by 8/31/88
100 tons	by 8/31/89
100 tons	by 5/11/90

It is not clear as to whether at this time the Government contracted with James Jarvis to sell him 71,174 pounds of copper belonging to the Government at eleven pence farthing sterling per pound, which he agreed to pay by 8/31/88. In any event, in September 1788 it was indicated that he was in default in his payment.

July 6, 1787

"(Report of Committee on device for copper coins)

"The committee, consisting of Mr. William Pierce, Mr. John Kean, and Mr. Samuel Holten to whom was referred a letter from the Board of Treasury, dated the 11th May, 1787, reports: That they having examined the several Devices sent for the copper coinage of the United States, are of opinion that the numbers 3 and 4 ought to be adopted. Therefore resolved that the Board of Treasury direct (Mr. Jarvis) the contractor for the copper coinage, to stamp on one side of each piece the following device: 13 circles linked together (each of which to bear the name of one of the States in the Union), a small circle in the middle with the words "American Congress" flowing round it: and in the center of that circle, the words "WE ARE ONE."

"On the opposite side of the same piece the following device to be stamped, a Dial with the hours expressed on the face of it; a meridian sun above; on one side of which, is to be the word 'Fugio,' and on the other, the year in figures '1787.' Below the dial, the words 'Mind your business.'

"Motion for amendment

"Strike out from the word 'together' two (sic) ye words 'a small circle' instead of 'American Congress' say 'U.S.' Strike out the word 'flowing.'

"On the report of a committee consisting of Mr. William Pierce, Mr. John Kean, and Mr. Samuel Holten to whom was referred a letter of the 11 May of the Board of Treasury, resolved that the Board of Treasury direct the contractor for the copper coinage to stamp on one side of each piece the following devices: 13 circles linked together, a small circle in the middle with the words (U.S.) round it, and in the center the words 'WE ARE ONE'; On the other side of the same piece the following device, a Dial with the hours expressed on the face of it, a meridian sun above on one side of which is to be the word 'Fugio' and on the other the year in figures '1787' below the dial 'Mind your business.'"

July 24, 1787 J.C.C. Vol XXXIII p 405.

A motion is made to have the States punish coiners not authorized by law, and to prohibit importation of copper coins from any foreign country.

"Resolved that the recommended to the different States to pass laws inflicting severe punishments on all coiners of money, against lawful authority and against all persons who shall import copper money from a foreign country, not by authority."

July 26, 1787

The above motion is recommended by the Committee, but apparently never passed.

May 21, 1788

Committee finds that only in two States does copper pass at British standard, that is 48 coppers weighing 1 pound avoirdupois for 2 shillings sterling. It finds that Great Britain

has called in all copper coinage to recoin under a higher standard, and indicates that this will cause Tower half pence to be exported to America.

It states that:

	<u>h</u> <u>s</u> <u>p</u>	<u>h</u> <u>s</u> <u>p</u>
2½ lb. of copper of present standard is		0 4 6
Brigden and Waller will deliver at London 2½ lb. of coins for	0 2 8-1/8	
Freight insurance etc. to America		2-3/8
Profit (55% of total)	<u>0 1 7-4/8</u>	
	0 4 6	

Since the manufacturer makes a profit on the coining too, it is over 75% differential between the present standard and the value of the similar coins.

The Committee suggests that

3 lb. of copper for a Federal dollar, instead of 2½ lb., be approved and that existing Fugio cents pass at 3/4¢ instead of 1 cent.

Sept. 16, 1788

Jarvis is in default by not completing any of the first three deliveries, and the cancellation of his contract is recommended.

Oct. 16, 1786

An ordinance was passed entitled, "An ordinance for the establishment of the Mint of the United States of America, and for regulating the value and alloy of Coin." This ordinance orders compliance with the resolution dated August 8, 1786, but contains the following:

"And it is hereby further ordained that the copper coin struck under the authority of the United States in Congress assembled, shall be receivable in all taxes, or payments due to the United States in the proportion of 5 dollars for every hundred dollars so paid; but that no other copper coin whatsoever, shall be receivable in any taxes or payments whatsoever to the United States.

"And whereas, The great quantities of base copper coin daily imported into, or manufactured within the several states, is become so highly injurious to the interest and commerce of the same, as to require the immediate interposition of the powers vested by the confederation in the United States in Congress assembled, of regulating the value of copper, the coin so current as aforesaid:

"It is hereby ordained, That no foreign copper coin whatsoever shall after the first day of September 1787 be current within the U. States of America: and that no copper coin struck under the authority of a particular State, shall pass at a greater value than one Federal dollar for two pounds and one quarter of a pound, avoirdupois weight, of such copper coin."

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James Jarvis offers to furnish the United States with 300 tons of copper coin, and the letter is read. The original letter is in Papers of the Continental Congress No. 139, Folio 491. It contains the following items of interest:

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That he would buy copper from the public at ninepence sterling per pound and pay the Government a 25% premium on the amount purchased;

That he would let the United States pay him for the coins bonds of ten, fifteen or twenty year maturity.

Attempted Federal Regulation of Coppers
from 1782-1789 and the Patterns

The United States of America pursuant to the
authority granted by the Article of Confederation
approved November 15, 1777 ~~in~~ ^{being} addition to the right to
issue paper money and ^{to} coin money, ^{had} the exclusive
power to regulate ^{the alloy and value of} the coin struck by any State, provided
that nine ~~states~~ ^{states} agreed to such action (Art. 9 § 4 § 5 § 6)
~~Being one of the delegates to the Continental Congress, I~~
~~It was the federal government was planning to issue a~~
~~here well aware of the embarrass~~ ~~ment~~ ~~the government in being~~
~~unable to redeem the~~ ~~issued~~ ~~the from~~
~~1775 to 1779.~~ ~~emphasized in the~~
importance of creating a sound Federal ~~the~~ coinage
system.

~~the following Article Proposed:~~

The conditions as to ~~the copper coin~~
~~in circulation and the need for~~ ~~the~~ ~~the~~
~~of the copper coin~~ ~~clearly~~ ~~not~~ ~~described~~
~~in a~~ ~~portion of a report~~ ~~of the Grand Committee to Congress~~
~~prepared~~ ~~by Thomas Jefferson~~ ~~in early in 1784~~ ~~and~~
~~submitted by the Grand Committee to Congress on May 13, 1785~~
(Papers of the Continental Congress Item 26, The Papers
of Thomas Jefferson, ~~by~~ Julian P. Boyd, editor, 1953, Vol 7
p. 196):

Copy
parts of pages 196 197 & 198

entitled Propositions Respecting the Coinage of Gold, Silver and Copper

~~Propositions~~

The ²above mentioned report, was the chimera
of a conflict of ~~thinking~~ ~~ideas~~ ~~the~~ thinking
between Robert Morris and Thomas Jefferson,
and because ~~and because~~ ~~and cooperation~~ ~~of the same~~
Pattern coins, resulted from the ideas of
each of them. ~~it seems~~ ~~to be~~ ~~the~~ ~~same~~

The Morris Proposal

Copper
~~Capt. Wright~~ thought on Federal ~~Coinage~~
~~the Plan proposed~~
When
Robert Morris sent a report to Congress dated January 15th, 1782 outlining the problems then existing with respect

to establishing a circulating medium in the United States. ~~He~~ *he*
~~was~~ *was* ~~to~~ *to* ~~arrange a~~ *arrange a* ~~medium~~ *medium* ~~by~~ *by* ~~which~~ *which* ~~the~~ *the* ~~public~~ *public* ~~to~~ *to* ~~use~~ *use*
~~the~~ *the* ~~existing~~ *existing* ~~money~~ *money* ~~of~~ *of* ~~the~~ *the* ~~states~~ *states* ~~and~~ *and* ~~the~~ *the* ~~proclamation~~ *proclamation* ~~money~~ *money* ~~used~~ *used* ~~in~~ *in* ~~all~~ *all*
~~of~~ *of* ~~the~~ *the* ~~states~~ *states* ~~and~~ *and* ~~the~~ *the* ~~proclamation~~ *proclamation* ~~money~~ *money* ~~used~~ *used* ~~in~~ *in* ~~all~~ *all*
of the states ~~and~~ *and* ~~the~~ *the* ~~proclamation~~ *proclamation* ~~money~~ *money* ~~used~~ *used* ~~in~~ *in* ~~all~~ *all*
of the states ~~and~~ *and* ~~the~~ *the* ~~proclamation~~ *proclamation* ~~money~~ *money* ~~used~~ *used* ~~in~~ *in* ~~all~~ *all*

~~from state to state~~ *from state to state*
pound varied by state. If "pounds" were to be converted into the
principle circulating coins, the Spanish colonial silver "pieces
of eight" reals (the Spanish dollar) and the 4, 2, 1 and $\frac{1}{2}$ reals.

~~one had to select the~~ *one had to select the* ~~most exchange~~ *most exchange* ~~value~~ *value*
~~There were five separate values~~ *There were five separate values*
of a "pound" in ^{the} United States, all of which were different from
the value of both the English or the Irish pound. The basis of

~~The~~ *The* ~~recommendation~~ *recommendation* ~~of~~ *of* ~~Robert Morris~~ *Robert Morris* ~~as~~ *as* ~~developed~~ *developed* ~~by~~ *by* ~~his~~ *his* ~~New York~~ *New York*

assistant, Gouverneur Morris, was to establish a money unit

which would be the common denominator of conversion of all

existing money of account ~~except~~ *excluding* South Carolina, ~~namely,~~ *which because of the*
~~rates of exchange turned out to be~~ *rates of exchange turned out to be* ~~the~~ *the* ~~most~~ *most* ~~valuable~~ *valuable* ~~unit~~ *unit*.

1/1440th of a Spanish dollar. His original suggestion ^{was} for silver
coins, ~~to be minted in the denomination of~~ *to be minted in the denomination of*
was ~~to mint~~ *to mint* ~~a Mark~~ *a Mark* ~~of~~ *of* ~~1000 units~~ *1000 units*, ~~a Quint~~ *a Quint* ~~of~~ *of* ~~500 units~~ *500 units*

and a "Cent" of 100 units. Copper coins were to be an Eight of

8 units and a Five of 5 units. The proposed silver coins were

to be valued at about $3\frac{1}{2}\%$ more than the intrinsic value of the

silver, but the amount of copper in the proposed copper coins was

not indicated.

11

Dies for the proposed coinage were cut early in 1783 by A. Dubois who was paid \$72.00 by Congress for preparing 4 pairs of dies and ~~probably~~ by John Swanwick who was paid \$22 and 42/90ths by Congress "for Dies for the Public Mint". Benjamin Dudley, who ~~was~~, at the request of Robert Morris, ^{was} preparing a mint, delivered to Robert Morris on April 2 and April 22, 1783

There are such dies. ~~Two~~ five known specimens of these dated 1783 and ~~one~~, preserving the complete detail of seven of these dies. A

This was forged. turned & used by me of the Eckfeldts?
Just reflect See Ensky

unit piece is mentioned in a May 15, 1784

Samuel Curwen (Cr. p.312) and thus another

pair of dies is accounted for. From the amount paid DuBois for making four pairs of dies we can assume Swanwick made only one pair. ^{of dies and was for the 5 unit piece} If Crosby had known of the existence of either of the two

specimens of the 100 mill piece, he would have agreed that a total of 10 pattern dies were made, ^{instead of 8 (Cr. p.312)} The unknown die ~~may~~ therefore be

~~the mate to~~ the obverse of the Quint which lacks the Nova Constellatio legend (obv. of Cr. VIII-3) ^{not} ~~could be~~ ^a die for the

~~5 unit piece~~ leaving the ~~the 5 unit~~ ^{the 5 unit} copper piece as it does not fit Curwen's description and could make for the 8 unit piece because ~~it is too small~~ ^{the die about 1/2 inch} The ~~die~~ therefore may be ~~an alternate~~ ^{an alternate} for the silver coinage. a mate for the ~~die~~ ^{thing} of the Quint, ~~can be~~ ^{can be} another alternate for the silver coinage.

NEW NETHERLANDS COIN CO., INC.
NEW YORK, N. Y.

Dies for the proposed coinage were cut early in 1783 by A. DuBois who was paid \$72.00 by Congress for preparing 4 pairs of dies and ~~probably~~ by John Swanwick who was paid \$22 and 42/90ths by Congress "for Dies for the Public Mint". Benjamin Dudley, who ~~was~~, at the request of Robert Morris, ^{was} preparing a mint, delivered to Robert Morris on April 2 and April 22, 1783 patterns struck from such dies. ^{There are} five known specimens of these ^{dated 1783 and} all in silver, ^{preserving the complete} silver patterns, ~~give us the~~ detail of seven of these dies. A coin described as a 5 unit piece is mentioned in a May 15, 1784 entry in the diary of Samuel Curwen (Gr. p.312) and thus another pair of dies is accounted for. From the amount paid DuBois for making four pairs of dies we can assume Swanwick made only one ^{die and coin for the 5 unit piece} pair. If Crosby had known of the existence of either of the two

specimens of the 100 mill piece, he would have agreed that a total
of 10 pattern dies were made, *instead of 8 (G p 212)* ~~and~~ therefore be

the mate to the obverse of the Quint which lacks the Nova Constel-
latio legend (obv. of Cr. VIII-3) ^{not a} ~~could be~~ ^{die for}

latio legend (obv. of Cr. VIII-3) could be a die for the
~~Quint piece bearing the same~~ the 5 unit ~~and~~ copper
~~piece as it does not fit Curran's description and~~
~~could not be for the 8 unit piece because it is too small.~~
~~The die should not get anything along with~~ therefore may
~~be a mate for the~~ an alternate for the silver
~~be a mate to the Quint~~ or
~~image a mate for the~~ ^{third} die of the Quint, but
~~can be another alternate for the silver image.~~

Nova Constellatio

These American-made patterns from 1776
American-made dies were the second
group of patterns coins prepared for Federal use, the first
having been ~~the~~ the Continental Currency Die and Patterns of 1776.

Promptly following the preparation of American-made
the 1776 Continental Currency, Coinage, Eric P. Newman, Coin Collector's Journal, July 1952
Nova Constellatio patterns showing their denomination,
in order to promote the Robert Morris proposal
Gouverneur Morris (Charles I. Bushnell, Numismatic Notes) must
Crosby p. 33

~~have~~ turned the design and legend over to ~~Boulton and Watt~~
Birmingham, England

British copper token manufacturer for the ~~production~~
manufacture of copper tokens

~~without any denomination~~ ^{desired}. From dies sunk by Thomas Wyon ^{the} Nova

Constellatio coppers dated 1783 were ^{profitably} promptly produced in Birmingham

in large quantity and sold to American ^{merchants} distributors to put into

circulation in America. They were identical in design and legend

to the American-made patterns except ^{silver} ~~the~~ the denomination was omitted.

~~The same the silver, the~~ the
There was a sufficient difference between/circulating value

and the cost of production and distribution of such coppers

to make such an enterprise ~~not~~ profitable, to all concerned.

~~These coppers were~~

The success of this speculation encouraged a new issue in 1785 and although one die used in 1783 with the word "Constelatio" misspelled was reused, the principal change in the 1785 issue was that the "U S" was written in ^{letter} script instead of in block letters. One pair of dies is dated in 1786 from which there are only a few existing specimens, all but one of which are rather ^{poorly} weakly struck. Since the known varieties of these issues with ~~their engravings have apparently not been heretofore illustrated as a group~~ ^{descriptions to have} I have ~~endeavored to do so.~~ ^{included them} in Plate I & 2.

~~To the varieties described by Tuckey I have been able to add only an American imitation.~~

~~I am, etc.~~
The writer has recently found ^{what seems to be} an American imitation of a 1785 Nova Constellation made in America at that time.

A classification of the ^{varieties of} Nova Constellation coins, as subsequently set forth.

The Jefferson Proposal

Thomas Jefferson recommended to the Continental Congress, in 1776, that the United States coinage should be based upon a decimal system so that amounts could be "expressed by decimal notation in Dollars and parts of a dollar". (JGC Vol 1:516). Jefferson therefore opposed the coinage plan of Robert Morris and ^{Gouverneur}~~Gouverneur~~ Morris and early in 1784 ^{had written} prepared notes on coinage which were ^{discussed with and} communicated to others. The text of these notes is first known in a newspaper article (The Providence Gazette and Country Journal, July 24, 1784 which is included in Papers of the Continental Congress, No. 26, Folio 559) entitled "Notes on the Establishment of a Money-Mint, and of a Coinage for the United States". The suggestion is ^{reaffirmed} ~~made~~ that the dollar or unit be the same as the average Spanish silver dollar, ^{and} The coins recommended were a 10 dollar piece in gold, a one dollar in silver, a 1/10th dollar in silver and a copper coin equal to 1/100th of a dollar. The proposed copper coin is referred to as a "hundredth", ^{said to be} ~~It is pointed out that the~~ and is close enough in value to the ~~which were only~~ copper or penny of New York and North Carolina ^{was} (1/96th of a dollar), ~~that~~ ^{and to} the copper or penny of New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware and Maryland ^{was} (1/90th of a dollar) ^{to permit an easy} and that Virginia does ^{substitution} ~~not use coppers~~. ^{in Virginia it is stated that} ~~the Virginia does not use coppers~~. ^{substitutes silver for} ~~the Virginia does not use coppers~~. ^{but} ~~the Virginia does not use coppers~~. ^{in New England a change} ~~the Virginia does not use coppers~~. ^{would be necessary}.

Jefferson's notes etc

It is pointed out that there should be proper devices for the coins recommended, ~~and~~ ^{and} a study of the various forms in which Jefferson's notes ^{on coinage were amended and revised} ~~were revised~~ by him and ~~subsequently re-written~~ by others gives us the official background for the devices and legends on the "INIMICA TYRANNIS" ^{and} the "CONFEDERATIO" copper coins.

The May 13, 1785 ^{copy of the printed as the report of} Jefferson's Notes ^{on money} as submitted by the Grand Committee to Congress on May 13, 1785 under the title "Propositions respecting the Coinage of Gold, Silver and Copper" ^{came up} calls a 10 dollar piece by the name of "Crown" and subsequently states at the

AMERICAN
modifies CONFEDERATIO
"AMERICA" I am
satisfied is an error
corrected by making
the new die.

crown occurred from the following idea
sion for the gold coin - An Indian,
not on a crown, a bow in his left-hand,
t-hand thirteen arrows; and the inscription

Manus inimica Tyrannis ..."

The devise is identical and the legend ^{partially identical} ~~similar~~ to coppers with legends, INIMICA TYRANNIS AMERICA, (obverse of Cr. VII-) and INIMICA TYRANNIS AMERICANA (obverse of Cr. VII-).

In another ^{proposed} draft of the Jefferson's ~~written~~ ^{written} in the same "Propositions respecting the Coinage of

Gold, Silver and Copper" in the handwriting of Hugh Williamson there are other variations in text, the most interesting of which

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Jefferson's notes etc

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"The word crown occurred from the following idea of an impression for the gold coin - An Indian, his right foot on a crown, a bow in his left-hand, in his right-hand thirteen arrows; and the inscription Manus inimica Tyrannis ..."

The devise is identical and the legend ^{partially identical} ~~similar~~ to coppers with legends, INIMICA TYRANNIS AMERICA, (obverse of Cr. VII-) and INIMICA TYRANNIS AMERICANA (obverse of Cr. VII-).

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Gold, Silver and Copper" in the handwriting of Hugh Williamson
there are other variations in text, the most interesting of which

17

(Paper of the Continental Congress, Item 26, p 542)

there is at the end a deleted paragraph as follows:

"It is not of any importance by what Name our Copper Coin is distinguished, but it should have some Name. They are not to be Pence nor half Pence and though they might be of the same value we should not have such words in our Language as applicable to our own Money. The French have their Sous and the Dutch their Doits and Stivers; perhaps from the circumstance of our coin being numbered by Decimals we might call some Piece of Money a Decad - let it be the largest Copper.

"Device & Inscription for one Side - - "

Here follows a drawing of a coin showing 13 stars within a ~~circle~~ ^{circle} ~~bordered~~ ^{bordered} serrations in ~~circle~~ ^{circle} form bordered by "CONFEDERATIO 1785". This

~~text and~~ drawing ^{are} reproduced on Plate ____.

The device and legend are identical to ^{both dies of the} Confederatio coppers with large stars (^{the variety} Cr. VII-) and ^{the variety} with small stars (^{Reverse of Cr. VII-}). ^{The weight averages}

It is interesting to note from the existing copper coins that both INIMICA TYRANNIS dies are combined only with CONFEDERATIO dies as shown on Plate 7. In the existing copper coins struck with one or more of the above dies other dies also were used which have different devices and legends but there is nothing known as yet relating to them. Crosby ^{quotes} mentions the Inimica Tyrannis origin but ^{without comment} apparent reference without comment as to the coppers of that type, but apparently ^{(p. 309).}

^{important}
the ~~official~~ background of the
By the Confederatio ^{dies} background has ^{not} ~~so far as I know~~ ^{to the writer's knowledge} never been
~~noticed~~ ^{publications} numismatically, so that the coins with that legend can
be properly classified.

The two dies containing INIMICA TYRANNIS and the two
dies containing CONFEDERATIO are therefore ^{suggested} patterns for United
States coinage prepared in accordance with the suggested designs and
of Jefferson and the Grand Committee of Congress. Like the
Continental Currency coinage (Continental Currency Coinage by
Eric P. Newman, Coin Collectors' Journal, Vol. p.)
and like the 1783 Nova Constellatio silver patterns heretofore
described, the INIMICA TYRANNIS and CONFEDERATIO dies were
(1) particular and (2) to oblige Congress
no doubt prepared to support proposals for coinage by those
interested in obtaining a coining franchise. These dies and
those with which they are joined, I believe, should therefore

I am convinced that the
INIMICA/CONFEDERATIO are
authentic patterns for
the first ~~unauthorized~~ ^{unauthorized} ~~mint~~ ^{mint} ~~in 1783~~ ^{in 1783}
at the Philadelphia mint.

an equal ^{status} ~~pattern~~ ^{pattern}
with the Nova Constellatio silver
patterns. ^{mintage}
ended that both dies of the 1785 Confederatio
Inimica Tyrannis were patterns for Federal
coinage prepared in accordance with the suggestions of members
of the Continental Congress.

18

^{important}
the ~~official~~ background of the
By the Confederatio ^{dies} background has ^{not to the writer's knowledge} so far as I know never been
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be properly classified. ~~The rights of the~~

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described, the INIMICA TYRANNIS and CONFEDERATIO dies were

(1) particular and (2) to ^{original Congress} ~~original Congress~~
no doubt prepared to support proposals for coinage by those
interested in obtaining a ^{who secured the dies} ~~who secured the dies~~ coinage franchise. These dies and

those with which they are joined, I believe, should therefore

be reclassified as ^{an equal pattern} ~~an equal pattern~~ ^{status with the} ~~status with the~~
Continental Currency coinage and the Nova Constellatio silver ^{mintage} ~~mintage~~

Having concluded that both dies of the 1785 Confederatio

and both dies of the Inimica Tyrannis were patterns for Federal
shown to be ^{made} ~~made~~ the same die maker as the Nova Constellatio
coinage prepared in accordance with the suggestions of members
of the Continental Congress

indicating the ^{tremendous} effort made by Brulton & Watt
to obtain a contract for American ~~coinage~~
coinage.

Recommendations to supply the coinage
~~the supply of Federal Coppers at their production~~
~~Federal copper~~

~~setting the content of~~

~~Following an act approved by Congress~~

The Continental Congress in setting the
metal content of ^{its proposed} ~~the~~ coins by the act of August 8,
1786 provided that ^{one hundred} ~~they~~ should weigh
two and one-quarter
pounds, ~~the~~ ~~the~~ the cent
therefore to weigh 172.8 grains. To protect
its copper coinage an ordinance passed
October 16, 1786 provides:

Copy

2 paragraphs

Different nations have adopted different systems. The British value their silver when coined, no higher than bullion. Hence it follows, that the expence of the mint, increasing the civil list, must be paid by a general tax; and tradesmen are disposed to work up the current coin, by which the tax is increased and continued. In some other countries silver or gold when coined, are valued above the price of bullion; whence tradesmen are discouraged from melting or working up the current coin, and the mint is rather profitable than burdensome. Certainly there are good and conclusive reasons, why we should value the national coin above the price of bullion; but there is a certain point beyond which we may not proceed, lest we encourage counterfeits, or private imitations of our coin. It has been proposed to make a difference of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. nearly, as an allowance for the coinage of gold, and of 3.013 per cent. for the coinage of silver. It is probable that 3 per cent. would more than defray the expence of coining silver, in which case it would be a temptation to private imitation, and would operate against the free circulation of the money, as being valued too high. It is to be remembered that silver coin ought to be encouraged, and probably 2 per cent. or $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. would be a proper difference between silver coined and bullion. The same difference to be made in the price of gold. If this does not fully pay the expences of the mint, there will be a much larger gain on the coinage of copper; and there should remain a small balance against the mint, its operation will not be unfavourable.

The coinage of copper is a subject that claims our immediate attention. From the small value of the several pieces of copper coin, this medium of exchange has been too much neglected. The more valuable metals are daily giving place to base British halfpence, and no means are used to prevent the fraud. This disease, which is neglected in the beginning, because it appears trifling, may finally prove very destructive to commerce. It is admitted that copper may at this instant be purchased in America at $\frac{1}{4}$ of a dollar the pound. British halfpence made at the tower are $\frac{1}{48}$ to the pound. Those manufactured at Birmingham, and shipped in thousands for our use, are much lighter, and they are of base metal. It can hardly be said that 72 of them are worth a pound of copper. Hence it will follow, that we give for British halfpence, about six times their value. There are no materials from which we can estimate the weight of halfpence that have been imported from abroad since the late act. But we have heard of money shipments being ordered, to the nominal amount of 1000 guineas with no more

gold, that 50 pieces arrive from England, without some hundred weight of base halfpence. It is a very moderate computation which our law, in the last twelve months, at 30,000 dollars, the commerce of vile coin. The whole expence of a mint would not have amounted to half of that sum, and the whole expence of domestic coinage would remain in the country.

The following forms of money are submitted.

Dollars.

- | | | |
|----------------------|---|--|
| 1 piece of gold of | 5 | |
| 1 piece of silver of | | 1 containing 362 grains pure silver. This is the unit of money of account. |

dol.

- | | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|--|
| 1 ditto, | $\frac{1}{2}$ or .5 | |
| 1 ditto, | $\frac{1}{4}$ or .25 | |
| 1 ditto, | $\frac{1}{10}$ or .1 | |
| 1 ditto, | $\frac{1}{20}$ or .05 | |
| 1 piece of copper of | $\frac{1}{100}$ or .01 | |
| 1 ditto, | $\frac{1}{200}$ or .005 | |

The quantity of pure silver being fixed that is to be in the unit or dollar, and the relation between silver and gold being fixed, all the other weights must follow.

When it is considered, that the Spaniards have been reducing the weight of their dollars, and that instead of 385.5 the grains of pure silver in the old Mexican dollar, the new dollars have not more than 365 grains, it will hardly be thought that 362 grains of pure silver is too little for the federal coin, which is to be current in all payments for one dollar. Some of the old dollars will admit of a second coinage; but the new ones will not. If the value of gold compared to that of silver, be fixed at 15 to one, and the alloy in each be $\frac{1}{15}$, the weight of the several denominations will be readily determined.

The price of bullion is immediately determined by the percentage that is charged towards the expences of the mint.

If the United States determine to adhere to the dollar as their money of account, and to simplify accounts by the use of decimals, there is nothing to prevent the immediate commencement of a coinage of copper.

Let the copper pieces, of which 100 are to pass for a dollar, contain each 131 grains of pure copper, or 44 of them weigh one pound. In this case our copper coin, when compared with the money

of account, will be 6 per cent. better than that of Great-Britain. There will remain a sufficient profit on the coinage.

Copper of the best quality in plates, may be purchased in Europe at 10d. $\frac{1}{2}$ sterling. In cutting blanks there will be a waste of 22 per cent. Those clippings are worth 7d. $\frac{1}{2}$ per pound. Thence the blanks will cost 11d. $\frac{1}{2}$ nearly; it may be stated at 1s.9d. New-York money per pound, exclusive of the expence of cutting them, which is not great, as one man can readily cut 100 weight in a day.

The operation, improperly called milling, by which the sharp edges are worn off from the coppers, is not more expensive than cutting the blanks.

In the process of coining copper, eight artists or labourers may be required.

One engraver, 1 labourer for the blank press.

One smith, 5 labourers for the coining press.

By those people 100 weight of copper may readily be coined every day, or the value of 44 dollars. Deducting the necessary expences, there may be saved 30 per cent. . . .

If one member of Congress from Georgia, another from Massachusetts, a third from Pennsylvania, and a fourth from North-Carolina, were a committee to decide on the general currency of America, each would prefer that of his own particular state. If a fifth member were added from South-Carolina, he (not being particularly attached to the new adopted sterling of that country) might wish for an expedient to reconcile the litigants. He would therefore seek a currency which though different from either, would coincide with all. The present currencies are in the following proportions to each other.

As $\frac{1}{66}$ to $\frac{1}{72}$ to $\frac{1}{96}$ to $\frac{1}{96}$ of a dollar; that is as 24 to 20 to 16 to 15.

Suppose then we take the following currency.

1 crown, or 10 dollars,	1,0000
1 dollar, or 10 bits,	1000
1 bit, or 10 pence,	100
1 penny, or 10 grs.	10
1 gr. (i.e.) a quarter of a grain of pure silver	1

This currency may (by means of a small profit taken to defray the expence of coining) be so adjusted, as to be in the proportions above mentioned: and then

The penny of Georgia will be	24 grs.
of Virginia and the four eastern states,	20

By May, 1788 ^{shortly} ~~before~~ after

~~Before~~ Jarvis had delivered his first production
of coppers ~~the acceptance of coppers had~~ it was
~~determined~~ ~~recognized~~ ^{realized} that the denomination
for which Fugio cents were to ^{circulate} ~~pass~~ was a
mistake. Other copper, ^{in circulation} would drag Fugio copper
down to the ^{lowest} level since intrinsic value was
lacking in ~~any case~~ all of the coppers. Thus
the committee recommended that Federal copper
to pass for $\frac{3}{4}$ cent each and that the weight for
100 coppers be increased to 3 pounds from $2\frac{1}{2}$ pounds.

The committee report describes conditions
as follows

get records.
May 21, 1788

[Report of committee on public accounts ¹][Report of Board of Treasury on copper coins ²]

The Commissioners of the Board of Treasury beg leave to Report to Congress

That the Contractor for Copper Coinage having lately made a delivery on Account of his Contract of a parcel of Copper Coin; the Board have turned their attention to the customs at this time prevailing in the circulation of Copper in the several States; and find; that there are but two States in the Union, where Copper passes at so high a rate as the British standard, that is Forty eight Coppers weighing one pound averdupois, for two shillings Sterling.

There are several important reasons for reducing the Nominal Value of the Copper Coin, struck under the authority of the United States which the Board with great deference beg leave to submit to Congress.

1st The stamping a Nominal Value on a piece of Copper far exceeding its real worth, operates as a high Premium to such as chuse to Counterfeit it at home or import it from abroad.

2nd The present rate at which Copper Coin passes, being much below the nominal value of the Federal Copper, every attempt to give it a general Circulation agreeably to the standard would in all probability be frustrated.

3rd It being the intention of the Government of Great Britain (according to recent information) to call in their present Copper Coinage to make way for one of a higher Standard, there can be no doubt but large quantities of the old Tower half pence will be exported to America to the great injury of the Public at large, as well as the Mint.

That the present nominal value of the Copper Coin exceeds in a prodigious degree its real value, will appear from the following statement Viz^l.

¹ *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 26, pp. 660-670, in the writing of Mr. Nathan Dane. Read May 21, and passed May 22, 1788. The text of the report, with verbal changes to make it an adopted resolve, is entered verbatim in the *Journal* on this latter date. See May 19, 1788.

² *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 130, pp. 673-682, read May 21, 1788. The covering letter of the Board, also read, is in *Papers of the Continental Congress* No. 140, I, p. 507. See June 6 and July 16, 1788.

Ques. I have often heard or read references to Machin's Mill in connection with our Colonial copper coins. Where and what was Machin's Mill? J. L., Rochester, N. Y.

Ans. This was a "Manufactory of Hardware" located near Orange Lake, outside Newburgh, N. Y. It was built in 1784 on land owned by Capt. Thomas Machin, military engineer during the Revolution. "Hard Ware" was a common British slang term for copper coins particularly of halfpenny size. Machin associated himself with Samuel Atlee, porter brewer, a naturalized Briton, James F. Atlee, die sinker, David Brooks, James Grier, acting treasurer, and James Giles, lawyer. The principal product was imitation British halfpence; they came with dates 1747, 1776, 1778, 1787, 1788. These regularly have single atlines to crosses in the shield held by Britannia, instead of double atlines found on British productions. All halfpence of the last three dates so far seen are Machin's Mill products. A number of die varieties exist, some quite rare. One of the 1776 coins has the same obverse (with spelling GEORGIUS) as is found with the LIBER NATUS obverse in a unique muling (1954-55 Std. Cat., p. 41). The reverse of many of the 1787's is the same die regularly found badly worn with a Vermont obverse (Ryder 13). GEORGIUS obverses are also found with Vermont and Connecticut reverses and also with a badly worn IMMUNE COLUMBIA obverse. All these are reliably attributed to Machin's Mill, as are several Connecticut (1788-1-1, 2-D and 16-D) and Vermont (Ryder 13, 27, 31, and possibly 18, 28, 29, 30, 33, 35). Minting operations were carried on in secret and at night; horrendous noises came from the mill, apparently from certain steps in preparing blank planchets for the press, and the workers wore hideous masks to frighten away the local children. In June 1787 the Machin's Mill establishment made a complicated partnership agreement with the Vermont mint, Atlee hereafter making dies for both, treasurers being exchanged, a common joint stock being set up, etc. Possibly half a ton of coppers were coined at Machin's Mill in 1789, not too much before or afterwards; the partnership broke up in 1790, the Mill closed in 1791. A partial account of this cloak-and-dagger coining enterprise is found in Crosby, EARLY COINS OF AMERICA, pp. 190-202; other details are in Simms, HISTORY OF SCHOHARIE COUNTY. The original agreements among the Machin's Mill partners, and the indenture between them and the Vermont coiners, are preserved at ANS. Our good friend Eric Newman is now completing a monograph on Colonial coppers, which includes a lengthy section on Machin's Mill. This will be the definitive publication on the subject, if the present state of the manuscript is any criterion, and we highly recommend it to our readers.

1956/03/28

[Report of committee on public accounts¹]

[Report of Board of Treasury on copper coins²]

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That the Contractor for Copper Coinage having lately made a delivery on Account of his Contract of a parcel of Copper Coin; the Board have turned their attention to the customs at this time prevailing in the circulation of Copper in the several States; and find; that there are but two States in the Union, where Copper passes at so high a rate as the British standard, that is Forty eight Coppers weighing one pound averdupois, for two shillings Sterling.

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2½ lb. of Copper Coin of the present standard is equal to British Sterling	0. 4. 6
2½ lb. Ditto struck agreeably to the Proposals of Mess ^r Bridgen and Waller of London delivered on board Ships in the River Thames at 14½ St ^r per lb is	0. 2. 8½
Add for Freight, Insurance and Contingent	2%
Charge 7½ P C ^t	
Difference betwixt the value at which it may be furnished; and the present standard is	0. 1. 7%
	0. 4. 6

This is upwards of 55 perCent beyond the Cost and Charges of importing it; but if this was done by the Manufacturer (who in all probability would not gain less than 20 PerCent) this added to the difference betwixt the real and Nominal Value, would operate as a premium of 75 PerCent in favor of those who should Import or Counterfeit the present Coinage; to guard against the effects of such a temptation, as Laws of the State Governments, or that of the Union, would in the opinion of this Board, be found adequate. Previous to the conclusion of the Contract with M^r Larche, the Board was informed by the Contractor, that he had suggested to the Committee the propriety of adding to the weight of the copper the Premium of Fifteen perCent, which was to be allowed in the United States; but that this proposition was not as then then judged eligible.

The same ~~above~~ and the reasons we may have occasion to make in the ~~cause~~ of this Report will, we presume, induce the United States to ~~consider~~ consider it in a different point of view; and under this ~~circumstance~~ we beg leave to suggest,

That the Federal ~~of the~~ ~~Board~~ contain Three Pounds Averdupois of Copper, instead of Two Pounds and One Quarter as was first intended.

That this should be divided into one hundred cents weighing ~~Gr. 209½¹⁰⁰ · Troy W^t~~ Grs. 209½¹⁰⁰ · Troy W^t
 The present Copper might ~~also~~ pass for %
 of a Cent being in Weight 157½¹⁰⁰
 A smaller Coin struck for ½ Cent 104½¹⁰⁰
 And a new Coin struck for the Cents weighing as above proposed.

It may at first view be supposed that the United States will actually sustain a loss by this alteration of the Standard; This is founded on a supposition, that the present Coin would be Circulated at the Value annexed to it, by the present Ordinance. But we have no doubt experience would prove, That if the Standard is not altered, the customs prevailing in the several States in the receipt of Foreign Copper Coin would determine the current Value in the market of the present coinage; in which case the proceeds of the Contract of Mr Jarvis would be as follows Viz^s

345 Tons of Copper Coin, at three Pounds		
Avoirdupois for one Federal Dollar		
would be.....	Doll ^s	230, 000.
345 Tons of Copper Coin passing at 20 of		
the present pieces for an eighth part of a		
Federal Dollar would be.....		207, 000.
So that the difference in favor of the public		
would be.....	23, 000.	230, 000.

To impress upon Congress more strongly the necessity altering the present Standard of the Copper Coin, the Board beg leave to lay before them, a copper piece struck on the principles of a Promissory Note of hand, and issued by the Anglesey Copper company, for labour, and Articles supplied to their works, as a penny Sterling. This piece will be found to weigh Eighteen penny w^t and sixteen grains Troy weight, which is at least 33 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent more than two of the British Tower halfpence.

This device has rendered the Laws of Great Britain for promoting the circulation of the Copper Coin at the present Standard altogether nugatory, and in all probability has evinced the necessity of raising the standard, as before suggested.

Should the reasons offered in this Report show the propriety of adopting the Standard recommended by the Board for the Copper Coin to be struck under the Contract of Mr James Jarvis, they beg leave to submit to the consideration of Congress, the following Ordinance, for carrying into effect the Intentions of that Honorable Body on the Premises,

Be it Enacted by the United States in Congress assembled,

That no Copper Coin struck under the Authority of the United States, or that of a particular State, shall pass at a greater value

May, 1788

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than one Federal Dollar for Three pounds Avoirdupois Weight of such Copper Coin;

And be it further Ordained. That the Cents composing the Federal Dollar, shall be represented by a Copper Coin, containing Two hundred and Nine grains and 98/100 of a grain Troy weight of pure Copper; that the Copper Coin struck in pursuance of the Act of Congress of the 8th of August 1786, shall pass for three quarters of a Cent, and that a smaller Coin be struck to represent one moiety of a Cent.

And be it further Ordained that such parts of the Acts¹ of Congress of the 8th August and 16th October 1786, as relate to the Standard of Copper Coin, be and the same are hereby repealed, and made void.

All which is humbly Submitted.

May 21st 1788.

SAMUEL OSGOOD
WALTER LIVINGSTON
ARTHUR LEE²

THURSDAY, MAY 22, 1788.

Congress assembled present as yesterday and from Rhode-island M^r [Peleg] Arnold.

The committee consisting of M^r [Nathan] Dane M^r [Hugh] Williamson M^r [William] Irvine M^r [Alexander] Hamilton and M^r [John] Brown to whom was referred a motion³ of

5/21/88

J.C.C

In only two states does copper circulate
at British standard i.e. 48 Copper ~~to~~
weighing one pound & passing for 2 shillings

Also British have called in copper to recoin

per shilling

1785-88 Conn 18 became 24 in 1788

1733 NY 15
1738 NY 12
1787 N.Y. 14

1791 N.H. 48

1787 NY 20

1789 NY ~~42~~

1789 Conn 72

1790 Mass 18 (Cents)

Dec 1790 Conn $26\frac{2}{3}$

May 1791 Conn ?

1785? Vermont 24

1789? Vermont 48

1790? Vermont 96

1786 N.J. 15

To understand the ~~various~~ ~~the denominations~~ From their settlement each
 Each of the ~~the~~ British colonies in America
 started its currency used pounds, shilling and
 pence in all ~~for commercial purposes~~
 as the money of account in commercial transaction
 regardless whether ~~Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, English~~
 they ~~the~~ ^{any} actual money ^{the} paid was ^{local} paper currency or Spanish
 Portuguese, English or other coin. ~~After the French~~ Originally
 the colonies in America ~~set~~ their pound at par with
 the English pound, but depreciation and trade difficulties
 resulted in a foreign exchange ^{differential} developing not
 only between England and its colonies in America but
 between the colonies themselves. By 1761 the ~~complexity~~
 of calculating exchange differentials was so complex
 that J. Wright, a London accountant ~~published~~ ^{prepared} a book
 of 406 pages of text and tables entitled "The American
 Navigator or the Various Currencies of the British Colonies
 in America". At that time the ~~Spanish~~ number of "money of account"
 plantation currency in a Spanish dollar were as follows

New England	149	• 671
New York & East Jersey	196	510
Pennsylvania & West Jersey	185	541
Virginia	140	714
Maryland & North Carolina	162	617
South Carolina	784	128
Georgia	112	781
England	182	781

A coin of English ~~genuine or counterfeit~~ halfpence, which circulated in England
 at 112 to the Spanish dollar would therefore circulate
 at a different rate in each of the above jurisdictions
 except Georgia

J. Kennard & Sons, Inc.

Furniture

Floor Coverings

Draperies

400 WASHINGTON AVENUE

SAINT LOUIS.

TERMS:

SOLD
TO

Register : Pattern Color Quantity

Value of
ListPa Nd Del Mary 7ch 6p = \$1²² = 90 d = 180 halfp. $\frac{540}{7} = 555.6$

NY = N.C.

8ch = $\frac{100}{120} = 96d = 192 \text{ halfp}$ $\frac{15}{17} = 52.94$ Va Comm RI Mass, NH, 6ch = 1²² = 72d = 144 halfp $\frac{15}{22} = 68.18$

SC* Ga

4ch 8p = 1²² = 50d = 100 halfp $\frac{1}{2}d = 1 \text{ p}$ * previously during Arm Rev was 32ch 6p = \$1²²Genuine English 4ch 6p = \$1²² = 54d = 108 halfp $\frac{15}{17} = 72.94$ Genuine Irish 4ch 10p = 1⁰⁰ = 58 $\frac{1}{2}$ d = 117 halfp $\frac{100}{117} = 85.47$

Cr. p. 222 18 coppers to Conn shilling in report of Conn
Committee

14 coppers to the NY shilling 3/1787 report
of NY legislature

NY ^{8/1} 1789 fell to $\frac{1}{2}$ rate + to $\frac{1}{3}$ rate letter from
Paine Wengate to must Wengate

Crosby p 176 In New Hampshire both halfpennies
were degraded to farthings and have not recovered (179.
(they passed for $\frac{2}{3}$ pence previously (that of NH)
or $\frac{3}{8}$ of former value)

Crosby p 296 In 1789 coppers are at 6 to a
penny at New Haven, Conn.

Report 74/89
Last mfg of Coins in Conn was June 1788
Others N.J. last

Mass N.J. Vt Conn dated 1788
prohibited under US Const ^{1200 min} ratified in 1789

Cr. p 273 June 10, 1790
Mass cents left over to be paid out & recd
at 108 ^{coppers or cents} for 6 shillings = 7 pence
or $\frac{108}{72} = \frac{12}{8} = \frac{3}{2} = 1\frac{1}{2}$ coppers per pence

18 coppers per sh.
 $\frac{1}{2}$ pence = $\frac{3}{4}$ of a copper
 $\frac{2}{3}$ pence = 1 copper

Cr. p 224 In Dec 1790 Conn Assembly resolved to
sell Conn cents left over 2 shillings for one pound
(apparently they didn't sell)
May 1791 Conn Assembly resolved to dispose
of coppers at best price.

Apr 190 Vermont coins first passed for
2 for a penny then 4 then 8 when it ceased
to be used to make them

N.J. coinage act of 6/1/86
provides 150 grains wt of coin
& 15 to pass for N.J. shilling.

N.Y. Act of Apr 20, 1787
20 coppers to a N.Y. shilling
& to weigh $\frac{1}{3}$ oz.

NH Act of 6/28 1776

to weigh 130 grains
to pass for ~~2 1/2 pence~~ or 3 coppers for 2 pence
1 1/2 coppers for 1 pence

Museum of City of New York

has
specimen of Daniel Van Voorhis
working 1785-1824

Fork of
Van ~~W~~ Voorhis + ^{Wyn} Paley
working 1786

V & C

~~Wyn~~ Van Voorhis + Schack
1792

Brasher, Assaye & US Mint 1792
worked 1786-1805
married Ann Gilbert 1766

236 E 52nd St
New York

236 E 52nd St

FIFTH AVENUE AT 59TH STREET

John



DR. SAMUEL E. NEWMAN

METROPOLITAN BUILDING
GRAND AND OLIVE STS.
ST. LOUIS, MO.

A Georgius III Rex obverse, ^{die which} is also
found combined with INDE ET LIB 1788
(Crossy) ^{Miller 1788} Reverse D and ~~this same~~ is also
found with three different 1778 BRITANNIA
reverse. ~~But~~ ^{Miller Reverse D of 1788 is found}
also found with obverse 2 and 16 (1) of 1788 The
later being the same obverses as of 1787.

There is also a GEORGIVS III REX obverse with
LIBER NATVS.

With the evidence of ^{four} ~~the~~ imitation British
dies being use in combination with Vermont
~~and~~ ^{White Natvs coins} ~~some of these coins~~ ^{not correct}
~~one no longer can assume~~ ^{being found in}
we must conclude that there was a
deliberate reason for so doing, ^{since such action}
~~and~~ ^{in violation of 22} ~~obvious~~ ^{which was}
of Corn ^{coined} ~~not sanctioned~~ ^{by the Vermont} laws.

Before ~~discussing~~ ^{proceeding} with a study
of ~~other~~ ^{foreign} evidence ~~under~~ the background of
the manufacture of imitation British copper
in England must be analyzed

The minting ^{in America} of imitation
imitation British halfpence ^{from 1784 to 1789}

~~There are a part of the early issues of American~~
~~as had been looked upon as counterfeit and~~
~~thus these coppers have been thought of as~~
~~lost money of the period~~
~~which were operated under the~~
~~unlawful~~
~~immediately prior to the ratification of the~~
~~Constitution in 1789~~
~~I felt that it was worth while to~~
~~show that imitation British halfpence was not intended~~
~~and to~~
~~rescure the imitation British halfpence to~~
~~and to show that this minting of them was~~
~~even though~~
~~Wells Batts in 1886~~
~~last~~
~~by law passed~~
~~France~~
~~was the copper coinage of England was introduced by~~
~~halfpence of~~
~~which forced manufacturing~~
~~it was also~~
~~at least~~
~~the price of copper around 10 1/2 sterling per~~
~~pounds~~
~~the average~~
~~the value of 2 shillings sterling and~~
~~the value of 3 shillings sterling~~
~~The cost of manufacturing was about 3 d per pound so that a~~
~~profit was obtainable~~
~~There were two principal types of unweathered~~
~~copper coinage in both halfpennies and farthings - those which were~~
~~direct copies of the Tower coinage and those which had obvious changes in~~
~~lettering or design from the Tower coinage~~
~~The weight of~~
~~copper in all unweathered issues was substantially less than the Tower coinage~~
~~to~~
~~the manufacturer and the distributor a profit~~

The halfpennies and farthings coined in the Tower from 1770 to 1775
was discontinued ^{after 1775} the American Revolution, but the ~~unweathered~~
~~issues continued~~ ^{until 1782} ~~it was not~~
~~that it had gone~~ ^{you get about 2 1/2 lbs of iron change in}
~~unweathered copper~~
~~As commerce with America opened up shipments of~~
~~unweathered copper were sent on almost every ship for~~
~~sale to those American merchants who~~
~~of great value~~
~~the existence of unweathered~~
~~imitation British copper~~
~~only tends to complicate the determination of what imitation~~

24

$$| 480 \text{ grains} = 153$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 6 \\ \hline 144 \checkmark \end{array}$$

56 to lb.

$$\begin{array}{r} \begin{array}{r} 20 \\ 120 \\ 480 \\ 144 \\ 36 \\ 6 \\ 3 \end{array} \cdot \begin{array}{r} 8 \\ 16 \\ 160 \\ 53\frac{1}{3} \end{array} = \end{array}$$

$53\frac{1}{3}$ to the lb.

24 pence

$$\begin{array}{r} \text{24} \overline{) 53\frac{1}{3}} \end{array}$$

$$1\frac{1}{3} \frac{4}{6}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 24 \overline{) 26\frac{2}{3}} \end{array}$$

2 shillings

As to letter punches used in making the dies for
 imitation halfpence we note that ~~these letters~~ ^{these letters} are not used in the dies of
 Vermont ~~cent~~ ^{cents} ~~they are copied on the letterpress~~ ^{they are copied on the letterpress} the
 imitation halfpence. These are available from the Vermont Carriage
 VERMONTENSIS RES PUBLICA U.S.
 VERNON AUSTORI INDE ETHIB) (an aggregate of 17 letter
 punches) and in GEORGIUS III REX BRITANNIA ~~the~~
 there must be added G and X. In examination of the
 dies showing that G is made from a C with a cross bar added
~~as in G~~ ^{as in G} ~~the imitation~~ ^{the imitation} ~~shows a different G in each punch~~ ^{shows a different G in each punch} ~~the imitation~~ ^{the imitation}
 the C ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~die~~ ^{die} has not had a cross bar added to make it a G
 so that it reads GEORGIUS III REX. The X ^{is the imitation} ~~is made~~ ^{is made}
 as a stubby ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~genuine~~ ^{genuine} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~right side up and inverted~~ ^{right side up and inverted}
 thus where the punch was ~~marginally~~ ^{marginally} the cross strokes of the X
 have a substantial set off as in ~~the 1888 imitation~~ ^{the 1888 imitation}
 has a good X

This argument is not conclusive as to X and
 English imitations have good X but not ~~genuine~~
 But as to G it is pretty good.

There was no G in either
 Vermont or Conn ^{N.Y.} dies
 and thus C is used for ^{some} imitations

Jan

1960

Barnesley.

New Jersey 1787

56-in

other over 1788 Machine milled

Chance on str. for on net.

Obt.

S. ~~the~~ of GEORGE 115 better horses over

Traveller within 9 miles at lower ~~and~~ and ymone.

for

Outline of shield over, at top of top line

88 of date of under type shows.

the idea of coining ^{English} copper
halfpence and farthings in Connecticut
was recommended ^{as early as} 1739 to
find a use for the copper mined in
Connecticut and to satisfy the need for
small change and to stabilize the paper
currency.

See Crosby p. 204

John Read Oct 10, 1739

Attempts were made in several colonies to have ^{authorized} copper coins of their own. Virginia by an act of council passed November 20, 1645 had approved a special issue of copper ~~pieces~~, of 2, 3, 6 and 9 pence, but none were made.

In Massachusetts a proposal ^{made} on ~~the~~ March 3 1703 to issue "Province Pence of copper" was turned down. A petition of John Read to the General Court of Connecticut dated October 10, 1739 requests permission to ~~use~~ use copper mined in Connecticut to make English halfpence and farthings and to make this copper coinage the standard for all Connecticut paper currency. At this same time, however, John Hegley was minting copper mined in Granby Connecticut without authorization. Although Hegley's ^{first} 1737 issues had a ^{specified} denomination of "THREE PENCE" ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ Connecticut ~~money~~ money, their size and weight were about the same as the George II English halfpence. His subsequent 1737 issues ^{and} ^{the} 1739 issue had a small "III", but bore the following legends indicating that the coppers would circulate at whatever the public might determine:

VALVE ME AS YOU PLEASE
I AM GOOD COPPER
I CUT MY WAY THROUGH
THE WHEEL GOES ROUND

the governor ~~of~~ North Carolina in 1754 proposed that North Carolina ^{copper} coinage in denominations of two pence, pence and halfpence of North Carolina money be approved, 61 copper halfpence to weigh one pound indicating

Walter Breen's

Corrections are on
New-Notelands envelope
~~attached to~~ the opposite
page

SPN

1997